Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. March 1886.

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136

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

MACEDONIA.

[This selection of Papers was prepared in 1885 with a view to presentation to Parliament, but it was eventually decided not to present it.]

136

1881-84.

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LIST OF PAPERS.

No.			Page
1.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville	January 28, 1881	1
2.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville	January 29, ——	1
3.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	February 14, ——	2
4.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville	February 20, ——	3
5.	Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	February 12, ——	4
6.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	February 24, ——	13
7.	Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	February 27, ——	15
8.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville	March 7, ——	16
9.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	March 8, ——	16
10.	Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles	March 16, ——	17
11.	Earl Granville to Consul-General Blunt	March 16, ——	17
12.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	March 12, ——	17
13.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	March 14, ——	18
14.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	March 14, ——	19
15.	Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville	March 12, ——	20
16.	Consul Reade to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	March 31, ——	20
17.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville	March 26, ——	22
18.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	April 18, ——	22
19.	Earl Granville to Consul-General Blunt	April 30, ——	24
20.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	April 23, ——	24
21.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville	April 27, ——	25
22.	Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville	May 3, ——	26
23.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	May 1, ——	26
24.	Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville	May 3, ——	27
25.	Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville	May 10, ——	28
26.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	May 10, ——	29
27.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville	May 10, ——	31
28.	Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville	May 14, ——	31
29.	Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Plunkett	May (Telegraphic) 30, ——	32
30.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Four Inclosures.	June 6, ——	32
31.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	June 14, ——	35
32.	Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	June 14, ——	36
33.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	June 19, ——	37
34.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	June 25, ——	38
35.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	June 29, ——	39
36.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	July 4, ——	40
37.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin	July 12, ——	41
38.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Three Inclosures.	July 6, ——	41
39.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Four Inclosures.	July 10, ——	42
40.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	July 20, ——	47
41.	Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville	August 5, ——	50
42.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville	August 15, ——	51
43.	Major Ardagh to Earl Granville	August 11, ——	51
44.	Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha One Inclosure.	August 24, ——	53
45.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	August 12, ——	54
46.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	September 3, 1881	56
47.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin	September 19, ——	57
48.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	September 7, ——	57
49.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville Five Inclosures.	September 24, ——	59
50.	Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville	September 18, ——	61
51.	Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville	September 23, ——	62
52.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	October 1, ——	62
53.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	October 8, ——	63
54.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Six Inclosures.	October 7, ——	64
55.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	October 15, ——	69
56.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Five Inclosures.	October 15, ——	71
57.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	October 17, ——	75
58.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	October 17, ——	75
59.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	October 18, ——	76
60.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin	October 29, ——	77
61.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville	October 21, ——	78
62.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	October 21, ——	78
63.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	October 24, ——	79
64.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville	October 29, ——	80
65.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville	November 1, ——	81
66.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	October 29, ——	81
67.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	October 29, ——	82
68.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	October 31, ——	84
69.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin	November 17, ——	83
70.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	November 10, ——	84
71.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	November 19, ——	84
72.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	November 21, ——	85
73.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville	November 25, ——	89
74.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	November 22, ——	90
75.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	November 23, ——	92
76.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	November 28, ——	93
77.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	December 7, ——	93
78.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville	December 13, ——	94
79.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	December 10, ——	95
80.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	December 17, ——	95
81.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin	December 31, ——	96
82.	Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles One Inclosure.	January 9, 1882	97
83.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville	January 3, ——	97
84.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	January 11, ——	97
85.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville	January 27, ——	98
86.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	January 31, ——	99
87.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville	February 26, ——	101
88.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville	February 26, ——	102
89.	Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	February 25, ——	103
90.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville Two Inclosures.	March 11, ——	104
91.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	March 17, ——	105
92.	Consul Longworth to Earl Granville One Inclosure.	March 20, ——	106

No.			Page
93.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	April 3, 1882	106
94.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	April 15, ——	107
95.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville ..	April 14, ——	108
96.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville ..	April 26, ——	108
97.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin ..	May 5, ——	108
98.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	April 22, ——	109
99.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	May 6, ——	110
100.	Memorandum communicated by Musurus Pasha ..	May 13, ——	110
101.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	May 20, ——	111
102.	Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Dufferin ..	May 30, ——	112
103.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville ..	October 21, ——	113
104.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	November 14, ——	113
105.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Three Inclosures.	November 9, ——	114
106.	Mr. Locock to Earl Granville ..	November 23, ——	116
107.	Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville ..	November 10, ——	116
108.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	November 27, ——	117
109.	Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham ..	December 5, ——	117
110.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	(Telegraphic) December 6, ——	118
111.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	December 11, ——	118
112.	Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville ..	December 7, ——	118
113.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	December 23, ——	119
114.	Mr. Locock to Earl Granville ..	December 31, ——	119
115.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	December 30, ——	120
116.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	December 31, ——	120
117.	Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham ..	January 19, 1883	121
118.	Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham ..	January 30, ——	121
119.	Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	January 17, ——	121
120.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	January 22, ——	122
121.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	January 29, ——	123
122.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	February 5, ——	124
123.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	February 17, ——	125
124.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	February 19, ——	126
125.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	February 20, ——	127
126.	Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham ..	March 6, ——	127
127.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	March 27, ——	127
128.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville ..	March 28, ——	128
129.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	April 9, ——	129
130.	Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham ..	April 20, ——	129
131.	Mr. Locock to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	April 18, ——	130
132.	Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham ..	May 7, ——	135
133.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	May 7, ——	135
134.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	May 7, ——	136
135.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	May 28, ——	136
136.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	June 10, ——	137
137.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	June 30, ——	137
138.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	July 17, ——	138
139.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	July 30, ——	139
140.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	July 30, ——	141
141.	Some Observations on the present state of Dardania, or Turkish Serbia (including the Vilayet of Kossova and part of the Vilayet of Monastir), by Mr. A. Evans ..	July , ——	142
142.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	August 15, ——	145
143.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	August 17, ——	146
144.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	August 25, ——	147
145.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	August 25, ——	147
146.	Further Report by Mr. Evans on the Present State of Dardania, &c. ..	August 11, ——	147
147.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	September 5, ——	151
148.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	September 5, ——	152

No.			Page
149.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	September 5, 1883	153
150.	Mr. Locock to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	September 21, ——	153
151.	Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville ..	October 4, ——	154
152.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin ..	October 19, ——	155
153.	Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	November 14, ——	155
154.	Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	December 1, ——	157
155.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	December 4, ——	157
156.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	December 4, ——	158
157.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Three Inclosures.	December 11, ——	159
158.	Earl Granville to Mr. Egerton ..	January 8, 1884	162
159.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin ..	January 8, ——	162
160.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	December 20, 1883	162
161.	Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville ..	January 21, 1884	163
162.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin ..	February 12, ——	163
163.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	May 6, ——	164
164.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Three Inclosures.	June 8, ——	164
165.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	June 14, ——	167
166.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	June 22, ——	168
167.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin ..	July 15, ——	169
168.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville ..	July 2, ——	169
169.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville ..	July 15, ——	169
170.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville ..	July 25, ——	170
171.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville ..	July 29, ——	171
172.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	August 7, ——	171
173.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	August 3, ——	172
174.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	August 3, ——	173
175.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	August 9, ——	174
176.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	August 9, ——	175
177.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	August 17, ——	176
178.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. One Inclosure.	August 17, ——	177
179.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville ..	August 17, ——	178
180.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin ..	September 2, ——	178
181.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin ..	September 4, ——	178
182.	Mr. R. J. Kennedy to Earl Granville ..	August 20, ——	178
183.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville ..	September 2, ——	180
184.	Mr. Locock to Earl Granville ..	September 12, ——	180
185.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville ..	September 10, ——	182
186.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	September 27, ——	182
187.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	October 1, ——	183
188.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	October 1, ——	184
189.	Mr. Currie to Baron Reuter ..	October 10, ——	184
190.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville ..	October 2, ——	184
191.	Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville ..	October 1, ——	185
192.	Baron Reuter to Mr. Currie ..	October 14, ——	185
193.	Earl Granville to Consul-General Blunt ..	October 15, ——	186
194.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	October 9, ——	186
195.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	October 16, ——	186
196.	Baron Reuter to Mr. Currie .. One Inclosure.	October 27, ——	187
197.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville ..	October 15, ——	187
198.	Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham ..	October 30, ——	188
199.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Four Inclosures.	October 23, ——	188
200.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	October 26, ——	190
201.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville .. Two Inclosures.	October 26, ——	192
202.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	October 27, ——	193

No.					Page
203.	Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha ..	..	..	(Telegraphic) November 16, 1884	194
204.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville..	..	..	.. .. October 27, ——	194
205.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.. One Inclosure.	..	..	.. .. November 10, ——	195
206.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.. Three Inclosures.	..	..	.. .. November 10, ——	195
207.	Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville ..	..	..	.. .. November 18, ——	197
208.	Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham One Inclosure.	..	..	.. .. November 20, ——	197
209.	Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville..	..	..	.. .. November 24, ——	199
210.	Earl Granville to Consul-General Blunt..	..	..	.. .. December 18, ——	199
211.	M. Guesshoff to Mr. Gladstone ..	..	..	(Telegraphic) December 9, ——	199

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting Macedonia.

No. 1.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 17.)

My Lord, *Salonica, January* 28, 1881.

IN conversing with Osman Pasha, the late Vali of Cossova, on the condition of that vilayet, I was very glad to learn from him that the state of brigandage which has so long disturbed the districts on this side of the Bulgarian and Servian frontiers, and which, rightly or wrongly, was in a great measure attributed to the designs of the Pan-Bulgarian party, has very considerably subsided, and that now comparative tranquillity prevails in those localities.

He considered that this satisfactory change was owing partly to the military cordon which he had established in the hitherto infested districts, especially in the village of Saz and eight other Bulgarian villages in the districts of Palanga and Preshowa, and partly to the earnest co-operation of the Servian and Bulgarian border authorities.

"Now, these authorities," he remarked, "act in unity with ours, and they give mutual information respecting the movements of bad or suspicious characters; and in other respects assist each other in maintaining order and tranquillity."

He also said that the troops on the frontier of each country were in friendly intercourse with each other.

In answer to my inquiry, he replied that there was also a marked change for the better in the treatment of the Mahommedan population in Servia and Bulgaria, and that now the authorities of those countries render more facilities to those who may wish to dispose of their real property.

On my referring to the Austrian occupation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar which is included in the Vilayet of Cossova, he told me that the Austrian military authorities did not interfere with the general administration of the occupied districts, that the conduct of their troops was very orderly, and that they fraternized with the Turkish soldiers and population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 2.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 17.)

My Lord, *Salonica, January* 29, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that since the date of my last despatch on the state of affairs in Macedonia no serious acts of brigandage have occurred in the interior.

The accounts which have reached me from my correspondents in the interior, although indicating that there is considerable alarm and anxiety with regard to the pending Greco-Turkish question, agree in showing that there has been a considerable falling-off of crime. My correspondent at Catterina, the nest of brigandage, informs me that some twenty brigands have surrendered themselves to the authorities within the last fortnight.

But I also hear that the authorities here have received information that the brigand chief ,Cattarachia, with his gang, who has hitherto carried on his depredations in the above-named district, is about to transfer his operations to that of Cassandra, and, in consequence, they have dispatched a body of troops to occupy the coast of

Mount Olympus in the direction of Tchaiyasi (mouth of the Peneus "Salambria"), and also directed a gun-boat to cruize about the Gulf of Salonica between the coast of Thessaly and that of Salonica.

The authorities think that this brigand's movements are connected with a political view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 3.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 23.)

My Lord, *Salonica, February* 14, 1881.

YOUR Lordship will learn from the inclosed copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, that brigandage continues to disturb the Province of Thessaly.

In Macedonia, that is to say, in the Vilayet of Salonica, I have the satisfaction to report that, although several bands of robbers are known to be still at large, no serious crimes have been perpetrated since the date of my last Report on the state of affairs in this vilayet. In the Sandjaks of Serres and Drama brigandage has entirely subsided, but lawlessness, I regret to say, is still prevalent in the Vilayet of Monastir. About a fortnight ago the whole of a Bulgarian family, composed of seven individuals, was found ruthlessly murdered in a khan (hostelry) in the Turkish village of Rosoman, about two hours' distant from the railway station of Gratsko.

Although the authorities have not yet discovered the authors of this wholesale crime, it is suspected that it was perpetrated by a Mahommedan refugee from Bulgaria, who, while staying at the khan, had committed a robbery of which these poor people were cognizant, and, apprehensive of being betrayed to the authorities by them, he planned and carried out the horrible outrage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Mr. St. John.

Sir, *Volo, February* 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to furnish the following Report on the subject of brigandage in Thessaly:

Most of the villages of the Volo district availed themselves of the permission granted by the authorities to maintain Christian guards as a means of defence against brigands.

But Zaghora, a village of about 700 houses, situated in the higher altitude of the Pelion Range, and about 40 miles from Volo, formed an important exception to this rule.

Its inhabitants, though better off and better educated, not only refuse to contribute to the formation of Christian guards, but even decline to have Turkish soldiers stationed at their village.

As a consequence of their imprudence, Zahora was entered on the morning of the 27th December by a band of nineteen brigands, composed of Greeks and Vlachs, under the leadership of a Cretan named Balachos, and 280 pupils with four teachers were carried off from its central school to the fastnesses of the adjacent mountains.

The bandits selected nine of the sons of the wealthier inhabitants, and, releasing the rest of the number, demanded for those retained the enormous ransom of £ T. 20,000.

On the 28th ultimo the liberation of five of the children was effected by the payment of £ T. 700; and on the 2nd instant the son of an opulent Zaghoriot was rescued and brought to Volo by one of the Vlach robbers named Sterio Tezho. It is said that the boy won the sympathy and attachment of this man, who subsequently escaped with him on finding that his companions had resolved to mutilate the lad,

by cutting off an ear and sending it to his parents as a token of their impatience to get the ransom money of £ T. 10,000.

There consequently remain only three of the children in the hands of the brigands, who are likewise about to be set free, as the protracted negotiations have at length terminated, and it is agreed that their deliverance is to be purchased for the comparatively moderate sum of £ T. 1,500.

I must not omit to state that the relatives of the lad, whose rescue was brought about by Sterio Tezho, called on me a few days ago with a request that I would so far interest myself on behalf of the ex-robber as to intercede for him in case of need with the governing class of the province. I told them in answer that, as a free pardon is being invariably granted to all brigands who surrender themselves of their own accord, there can be little fear of his being molested by the Turkish authorities.

I expressed to them, moreover, a reluctance to interfere, owing to my having hitherto firmly discountenanced the amnesty extended to brigands as a useless and mischievous measure, for, although many avail themselves of it, they usually revert to their old vocation after a few weeks of quiet life. I promised them, nevertheless, that should the matter necessitate interference, laying myself open to the blame of inconsistency would not deter me from using my influence in favour of Sterio Tezho, as I believe that the punishment of the man would only tend to discourage other brigands from imitating his good example.

Before concluding, I beg to make a few remarks on the deplorable state of this country from the evils of brigandage. Robbers swarm everywhere, and their depredations are becoming incalculable. They have accessories in every town and important village, and obtain information through spies and agents from all parts of the province.

Even the high road to Larissa had been waylaid by them twice within the last fortnight; and as for travelling in the mountain localities, it is simply a risk of being caught or killed, unless provided with a large escort or a written pass from some notorious brigand chief. The people, through sheer fear, aid the outlaws rather than the Government, for the Executive is helpless, and the troops are discouraged by a series of disastrous and useless encounters.

In my opinion, the only means of somewhat curing the evil is, firstly, by organizing an efficient secret police; and, secondly, by hanging a few of the brigands in every town of Thessaly; but for the one there must be trustworthy detectives without uniforms, and for the other conscientious functionaries with full powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 4.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 2.)

(Extract.) *Salonica, February* 20, 1881.

SOME of the Albanian Chiefs are now visiting the southern districts of the Vilayet of Cossova for the purpose of inviting the people to join their League; but it appears, from all I hear, that they meet with little encouragement from the inhabitants, who, for the most part, are what Turks call "Feti Evlad" ("Children of Conquerors"), and between whom and the Albanians the only common bond is the profession of Islamism.

The districts of Radovitz, Istip, and Kotchana will have nothing to do with the League, as is shown by the following telegram received by the Vali from the communities thereof:—

(Translation.) "*February* 14.

"The Albanian League insists upon enrolling troops in our district. Upon our informing the Chiefs, who have come here with that mission, that we are not prepared to enlist, they threatened to compel us by force. We have sent a telegram of 279 words to the Prime Minister complaining of these proceedings, and we now solicit your energetic support in our favour."

Radovitz, a small district to the north of the Vilayet of Salonica, is included in the Sandjak of Uscup, and situated between the districts of Stroumnitza and Istip

It is composed of a township containing some 500 houses (half Turkish and half Bulgarian) and 53 villages, of which 24 are occupied by Turks, 20 by Christians (Bulgarians), and 9 by Turks and Bulgarians.

The districts of Istip and Kotchana, still further north, are larger, more populous, and also have no ties either of feeling or of blood with the Albanians.

I may also remark that the same is the case in the towns and villages in the basins of the Rivers Vardar and Kara-Sou (Strymon), with the exception of a few villages in the district of Kiuprulu. In fact, the Mahommedan population of almost the whole of the Vilayet of Salonica is composed partly of "Cogniaris," the descendants of colonists brought into the country from Asia shortly after the Turkish conquest, and partly of Bulgarians, Greeks, and Wallachs who have adopted the Mahommedan religion, and preserved their national languages and many of their distinctive characteristics.

Nor is the religious ardour of these Mahommedans such as to lead them under the influence of the Albanian League, and I think it very likely that they would actively support the Porte to suppress the movement, an impression in some measure borne out by the fact that all the Mahommedans in the southern districts of the Vilayet of Cossova liable to serve have readily offered themselves for enrolment in the Redifs, whereas the Albanians in the northern districts have stoutly refused to come forward.

One very gratifying and important feature in the situation of affairs in the Vilayet of Cossova is the fact that comparative security of life and property now prevails there: the blood feuds which have always disturbed the social relations of the Albanians are in abeyance; brigands and other lawless characters no longer roam about with impunity, and the taxes are regularly collected under the authority of the League. This interesting and significant condition of things is confirmed by the accounts which have been received by the Salonica merchants from their agents in the interior, and by persons who have recently visited Mitrovitza, Pristina, Uscup, Comanova, and Kiuprulu.

I have seen several of these individuals, who told me that they were struck with the anxiety the Chiefs of the League manifest to prevent excesses and maintain order and tranquillity.

They also observed that the League have practically got possession of the administration of the Vilayet of Cossova, and that the Turkish civil and military authorities are pursuing a passive policy towards their movement.

In the town of Uscup the most severe police measures are enforced by the League; houses of bad repute have been closed, and no Mahommedan is allowed to enter the taverns! Should any Mahommedan transgress this order he is held up to public ridicule by being conducted through the town with a bottle tied round his neck, and afterwards bastinadoed and fined!

No. 5.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord, *Sophia, February* 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Circular which has been addressed to the Agents of the Great Powers at Sophia by the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the immigration of the inhabitants of Macedonia into Bulgaria, which has caused serious embarrassment to the Bulgarian Government.

M. Stoitchoff points out that this immigration is caused by the ill-treatment and persecution to which the Bulgarians of Macedonia are subjected, and that the Ottoman Government is powerless to provide for the security of the inhabitants of a country in which the recollections of the events of 1877-78 have aroused religious and national passion.

The Bulgarian Government consider it a duty of humanity to call the attention of the Powers to the atrocities which are being committed, and which call to memory the excesses committed in Bosnia and Bulgaria in 1875 and 1876.

The difficulties which this state of things cause to the Bulgarian Government are very great, not so much on account of the extra burden laid upon the Treasury in consequence of the great number of refugees as on account of the effect which the reports of these cruelties produce on the population, which, although naturally peaceful, is still under the influence of the sufferings which it endured.

M. Stoitchoff then calls attention to the efforts made by the Bulgarian Government and by the Prince himself to bring about a better feeling between the Bulgarian and Mussulman population of the Principality; but he is afraid that this work of pacification will be compromised by the agitation which exists on the south-west frontier, and by the indignation caused by the accounts given by the unfortunate refugees.

The Bulgarian Government have thought it their duty to call the attention of the Great Powers to the dangers which may arise from this melancholy state of things, and to point out to them their anxiety for the present and their fears for the future, in consequence of the unhappy situation of the Christian population of Macedonia.

This note did not reach me until after M. Stoitchoff's departure for Vienna. His Excellency had, however, already informed me that he was preparing it, and gave me a sketch of what it would contain. I told his Excellency that it appeared to me that it was a very delicate matter for the Bulgarian Government to raise a question with regard to Macedonia. Such a step might be considered as an attempt on the part of the Bulgarian Government to interfere with Macedonian affairs, and the Porte would probably seek to throw the blame of any disturbances in Macedonia on the Bulgaro-Macedonian League.

M. Stoitchoff replied that the Bulgaro-Macedonian League had ceased to exist, and that it never had the slightest importance. The small amount of money that had been collected had been appropriated by the persons who had collected it. The arrival of large numbers of refugees was a serious burden upon the Bulgarian Treasury, and it was very hard upon the Bulgarian Government, when they were doing all they could to improve the condition of the Mussulmans in the Principality, to find that the Bulgarians in Macedonia were being cruelly persecuted. His Excellency denied that there was the slightest intention on the part of the Bulgarian Government to interfere in any way in Macedonian affairs, but he thought it was very necessary that the Great Powers should be informed of what was going on.

M. Stoitchoff's note is accompanied by a résumé of the information received by the Bulgarian Government with regard to the acts of brigandage committed in Macedonia in 1880, copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

M. Stoitchoff to Mr. Lascelles.

M. l'Agent, *Sophia, le 8 Février*, 1881.

LE courant d'émigration des habitants de la Macédoine en Bulgarie attirait depuis longtemps l'attention du Gouvernement Princier, mais comme il tend à devenir toujours plus considérable, Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie s'en est ému, et sur son invitation le Conseil des Ministres m'a engagé à attirer l'attention des Puissances Garantes sur cet état anormal et douloureux.

Lorsque le Gouvernement Princier vit le grand nombre de Macédoniens qui venaient chercher un refuge en Bulgarie, il pensa qu'il était la conséquence de la situation créée par le Traité de Berlin.

Il était en effet naturel de supposer que les habitants de la Macédoine avaient pu espérer la reconnaissance de leur autonomie après la signature des Préliminaires de Paix du 31 Janvier, 1878, et que déçus dans leurs espérances ils s'étaient décidés à abandonner leurs foyers pour venir en Bulgarie.

Des secours étaient accordés à ces malheureux; nous pensions que ce déplacement de population n'était que temporaire, mais aujourd'hui l'affluence des immigrants est telle qu'elle est la cause de sérieux embarras de divers genres pour le Gouvernement Princier.

Les causes qui poussent les fugitifs à franchir la frontière sont maintenant parfaitement connues; ils fuient les mauvais traitements, les persécutions, le pillage, car leur vie, pas plus que leurs biens, ne sont respectés.

Loin de vouloir nous immiscer dans ce qui se passe au delà de notre frontière, nous croyons au contraire que la responsabilité des actes barbares dont sont victimes

les populations Macédoniennes ne saurait retomber sur le Gouvernement Ottoman; cependant nous ne pouvons nous empêcher de dire que son autorité est impuissante pour maintenir l'ordre et assurer la tranquillité et la sécurité des habitants dans des contrées où les souvenirs des événements de 1877-78 ont surexcité les passions religieuses et nationales.

Les événements qui se passent journellement à notre frontière sont la confirmation des appréhensions manifestées aux Conférences de Constantinople et de Berlin.

La lueur d'espoir que les habitants Chrétiens avaient eu que l'heure de l'indépendance était proche, et les manifestations de joie auxquelles ils s'étaient livrés servent de prétexte aux Musulmans pour leur faire des vexations de tout genre.

C'est le cas des populations Macédoniennes, et les souffrances qu'endurent nos malheureux frères rappellent les excès commis en Bosnie et en Bulgarie pendant les années 1875-76. Les districts qui touchent à l'Albanie Musulmane sont surtout le théâtre de scènes, de meurtre, de pillage, et de viol.

Le brigandage s'y exerce sous toutes les formes, et les renseignements, détaillés, certains, qu'on peut vérifier, tant les indications sont précises, dépassent l'imagination.

Nous croyons donc remplir un devoir d'humanité en attirant l'attention des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin. Ne penseront-elles pas qu'il y a urgence de mettre un terme aux atrocités qui se commettent chaque jour, et à l'affreux désordre qui règne dans certaines localités?

Les difficultés que nous crée cet état des choses sont immenses. Ce n'est pas seulement les charges qu'imposent au Trésor le grand nombre des réfugiés qui nous inquiète; c'est surtout l'effet produit par le bruit qui se répand partout de ces cruautés, sur l'esprit de nos populations, paisibles de leur nature, mais encore sous l'influence des souffrances qu'elles ont endurées.

Tous les efforts du Gouvernement Princier tendent à chercher d'effacer dans les esprits les souvenirs irritants du passé, amener l'apaisement des haines qui peuvent encore subsister, et habituer les sujets Chrétiens à voir désormais dans leurs compatriotes Musulmans des membres d'une même famille, jouissant des mêmes droits et soumis aux mêmes devoirs.

Ces idées de conciliation sont constamment rappelées aux fonctionnaires Princiers dans tous les arrondissements de la Bulgarie, et les instructions qui leur sont adressées sont toujours rédigées dans un but d'apaisement.

Le Gouvernement Princier n'a pas manqué de se montrer sévère à l'égard de ceux de ses Agents qui n'étaient pas entrés dans ses vues.

Son Altesse le Prince Alexandre, mon auguste Maître, qui a pris particulièrement à cœur de voir aboutir, conformément à ses désirs, cette importante question d'assimilation, s'est occupé assidûment des mesures à prendre pour en assurer la plus prompte solution.

Nous étions donc en droit d'espérer, qu'en persévérant avec ardeur dans cette ligne de conduite, nous arriverions peu à peu à établir la concorde à faire naître la tolérance dans les relations de nos habitants d'origines différentes.

En présence de l'agitation qui se propage et augmente chaque jour à nos frontières sud-ouest, nous craignons sérieusement que notre œuvre de pacification soit compromise, que nos exhortations ne soient pas écoutées par suite des sentiments d'indignation que font naître les récits des malheureux fugitifs.

Le Gouvernement Princier a cru de son devoir d'appeler l'attention des Grandes Puissances sur un si triste état de choses et leur signaler les dangers qui pourraient en être la conséquence.

Je vous prie, M. l'Agent, de vouloir bien communiquer à votre Gouvernement les inquiétudes pour le présent, et les craintes pour l'avenir, que fait naître pour le Gouvernement Princier la situation malheureuse des populations Chrétiennes de la Macédoine.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) N. S. STOITCHOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

Résumé des Informations parvenues du Gouvernement Bulgare sur les actes de Brigandage commis en Macédoine pendant le courant de l'Année 1880.

AVANT d'aborder le détail des faits, quelques mots d'explications sont nécessaires pour faire comprendre l'origine du brigandage dont souffrent si douloureusement les populations Chrétiennes de la Macédoine, les causes qui contribuent à le développer, et les motifs auxquels ils font attribuer l'inertie des autorités Ottomanes.

Les districts occidentaux de la Macédoine ont de tout temps été exposés aux déprédations de bandes de pillards Albanais qui font de ce "tchetas" une véritable profession. Mais depuis la conclusion de la paix leurs incursions ont pris une extension alarmante. L'effectif de chaque bande s'est accru, ce qui a permis aux chefs d'étendre le cercle de leurs opérations, et en même temps il s'est formé un nombre considérable de bandes nouvelles.

La sécurité disparaissant, le commerce aussi, et, par une conséquence naturelle, les difficultés de la vie augmentant, il en est résulté que beaucoup d'individus n'ont vu d'autre moyen d'échapper à la misère qu'en se joignant aux bandits. Les Turcs émigrés pendant la guerre, et rentrés depuis (Mukadjirs), ont fournis surtout de nombreuses recrues aux bandes. Il va sans dire que c'est sur le malheureux cultivateur que retombe tout le poids de cette situation.

Quel rôle joue l'Administration Turque dans ce mouvement d'anarchie qui se propage avec une rapidité effrayante?

Plusieurs hauts fonctionnaires ont des parents et des amis parmi les fauteurs de désordres, qui garantissent leur impunité; d'autres déplorant ces excès, n'osent cependant en tenter la répression; ils redoutent l'impopularité, les rancunes de leurs coreligionnaires, et les dénonciations dont ils deviendraient l'objet; d'autres enfin, au su de tout le monde, sont des protecteurs avérés des bandits, presque leurs commanditaires. Quant à leurs agents, ils trouvent que la connivence, d'ailleurs d'accord avec leurs sympathies, est plus lucrative que l'accomplissement du devoir sous un Gouvernement qui ne les paie pas suffisamment. On peut même dire de quelques-uns de ces agents—les Poliaks, par exemple—qu'ils sont de véritables et zélés collaborateurs des bandits.

On vient de voir que les bandes se recrutaient en grande partie d'émigrés Musulmans rentrés après la paix. C'est à cette catégorie d'individus, animés d'un esprit de vengeance doublée de fanatisme, qu'il faut attribuer le caractère de férocité que prend le brigandage dans de certains moments et en certains lieux. Ce sentiment de haine, poussé presque jusqu'à la folie, peut seul expliquer l'extravagance de quelques-uns des forfaits mentionnés ci-après.

Il paraît invraisemblable au premier abord que des meurtriers, quelqu'endurcis qu'on les suppose, après avoir égorgé leur victime, la mutile et la mette presque en morceaux. Les faits ne sont cependant et malheureusement que trop vrais et trop communs:—

Districts de Krouchovo (Krutchevo) et Kitchevo.

Les principaux chefs de bande sont:—

Djemo Yaslioske (Djemil Fozli-oglou), de Kruchevo.
Nouri Mustafa, du village de Salp.
Ruchid Imrazoglou, de Krouchevo.
Selim, du village de Zaetz.
Baffir, du village de Baltchuchta.
Suli Tufektchi, du village de Débretche.
Alio Ouzeiro, du village de Sarhiani.
Nezir, du village de Zaetz.
Bairiam, du village de Botchentzé.
Vessel, du village de Blatzo.

Chaque bande comprend cinq à vingt personnes; elles parcourent les villages et ont pour auxiliaires les garde-champêtres ("piliaks"). Elles imposent des contributions, pillent, tuent, violent les filles et les femmes sous les yeux de leurs parents, incendient les maisons et enlèvent les bestiaux sans que jamais les autorités du pays les inquiètent; d'ailleurs, lorsque des plaintes sont faites et que les bandits en ont connaissance, les plaignants sont impitoyablement massacrés.

Le 24 Mars, 1880, des Turcs du village de Zniase incendient l'église de Torün ; sont tués, Elia Steianoff, du village de Roxitchine; Bogin Pavlef, du village de Belitza, tué à Boukovo; Velianof, du village de Kitchevo; le même jour, pillage du Couvent de Sainte-Marie à Pretche, pillage et incendie de l'église du village de Yogol.

Le 6 Avril, Avram Kiprof, du village de Popovetz, est tué et son moulin à foulon saccagé.

Vers la même époque Ibrahim et Kerim, du village de Papuadichta, tuent Jové Milenkof à Kossovo et incendient deux maisons.

La bande de Djemil fait payer au Pope Zdravé, du village de Guadchnitza, pour sauver les femmes de ses deux fils 2,000 piastres; trois jours plus tard la bande revient et les deux femmes sont violées.

Le 15 Avril, au village d'Osson, des Turcs ont pillé les nommés Vasso et Maté, les ont d'abord rossés de coups, puis les ont tués pour s'emparer de £ T. 22.

Le 15 Avril, près de Lakvitza des Turcs s'emparent d'un Bulgare, l'attachent à un arbre, et le prenant pour cible, [*]

Le 29 Avril. Les deux fils de George, du village de Zdounie, sont brûlés vifs dans une grange ; 300 moutons sont enlevés.

Le 13 Mai. Au village de Dobrenovetz (Kitchevo) la femme de Nikola Moysof est violée, le mari rossé de coups.

Le 13 Mai. Une bande partie de Dolni Debré parcourt les villages de Boukoitchani, Kolari, Zaiatz, et Batchichta, et enlève 2,950 moutons. Les mêmes bandits assassinent à Boukoitchani le nommé Bilbila, le 17 Août, et brûlent sa maison.

Le 19 Mai la bande de Debré enlève les bestiaux du village de Lootchani.

Le 30 Mai. Au village de Jahoritz une bande impose aux habitants une contribution de 28,000 piastres. Un nommé Tzoventan, soupçonné de cacher son argent, est assommé à coups de bâton et tué

Le 31 Mai. En présence de tous les habitants du village de Lokvitza, le chef de bande Djemil tua Stolé Naoumof et jeta son corps aux chiens.

Le 5 Juin. La même bande prend à Damian-Kehaia, du village de Galitchnik, 18 chevaux, 3,000 moutons, et tue deux bergers.

Ce village avait subi l'année précédente plusieurs des brigands dans lequelles avaient été tués: Alexi Georgief, Evgène Avramof, Arso Ivanof, Kuzman Teodorof, Stoyan Pavlof, Avram Damianof. La ferme de Todor Kehaya avait été pillée, 19 chevaux et 2,300 moutons enlevés, ses deux fils et trois bergers tués.

Le 5 Juin suivant, le même enlève le femme de Nikolo Radef, du village de Debitch, après avoir rossé de coups le père et le fils.

Le 9 Juin. La bande du même Djemil, après avoir torturé le Pope Carpeta, du village Soknitza (Kitchevo) pour lui arracher 150 medjidiés en argent, viole sa fille âgée seulement de 11 ans, qui succombe aux suites de ces violences.

Le même jour une bande de Debré envahit le village de Invantchitze (Kitchevo), d'où elle enlève 300 moutons.

Le 10 Août. Au village de Golitchnika les Turcs tuent le fils de Hadji Simova pour lui prendre son cheval.

Le 13 Août. Dans les environs des Maorosko, deux Albanais, ——— et Rusmen, assassinent les nommés Kelia, du village de Melnitchani, et Nestore Koytcheschi, du village de Golitchnika.

Le même jour, les mêmes bandits, près de Kolendoritza, enlèvent 120 moutons à Koradja Nikof et Filip Kristof, du village de Golitchnika, et deux bergers, et près de la montagne de Tcherkez volent encore trois chevaux à Nika Steyanoff.

Le 15 Août. Halim Peka et Kerim, du village de Zayatz, près de la montagne de Kolenderiza, enlèvent quinze moutons et trois chevaux et tuent le berger Spasse Stoykof du village de Kounanovsko.

Le 24 Août. A. Midinitzi, la bande de Debré pille le village, assassine les nommés Jean et Karafilia Stanef, Simion et Petre Boyof, Stoyan Guinof, et incendient cinq maisons.

Le 15 Août. La bande de Rouchan Ibrahim attaque le village de Jagol, brûle les maisons de Kofileta de Mitré et de Stonoeff, assassine Mitan Josef et le berger Petre Stoykof et enlève 180 moutons.

Le 17 Août. Des bandits commandés par Nezir et Banti mettent à contribution de 2,500 piastres, tuent George Mitrof et Petre Stanef et violent devant leurs parents deux jeunes filles, Mitana Bibof et Stefana Netkena.

* Remainder of sentence illegible in MS.

Les habitants se plaignent aux autorités qui leur conseillent de se soumettre aux exigences des chefs de bande et disent qu'il est impossible de leur porter secours.

Le 28 Août. Les mêmes bandits pénètrent dans le village de Jagol Dolentzi, commencent le pillage par la maison de la veuve Petkovitza, l'assassine parce qu'elle appelait au secours sans se laisser émouvoir par les cris de ses petits enfants. Ils continuent ensuite le pillage de chaque maison, et emportent du village 3,800 piastres.

Le 4 Septembre. Au village de Galischika, Hassam Hugioglu de Zayatz et Rusmin volent 500 moutons à Donko Nicolski et Yanko, après avoir maltraité les bergers.

Le 8 Septembre à Lazarovopolé, des Albanais tuent le neveu de Marko Kehaya, blessent trois de ces bergers et enlèvent 350 moutons.

Le même jour, les mêmes bandits s'emparent près de la montagne Golyak de soixante-trois chevaux chargés de blé et tuent un des conducteurs.

Le 12 Septembre. Des Turcs de Teretnik et de Konetchtiza, volent 100 moutons à Ylia Kronkof, du village de Labanitza.

Le 15 Septembre. Des Turcs du village Kobountzi pillent plusieurs maisons du village de Dordi et enlèvent vingt mulets.

Dans le cours des mois d'Août, Septembre, et Octobre, le village de Porctché, outre son couvent brûlé, a été le théâtre de trente-huit assassinats, de pillages incessants accompagnés de viols de filles et de femmes.

Le 17 Septembre. Au village de Yahoretz, les nommés Nezir-Hadjeoglou et Bekir, accompagnés d'hommes de leur bande, violent deux femmes, trois filles, se font payer 2,000 piastres par les habitants, et enlèvent 500 moutons.

Quelques jours après, les mêmes bandits volent 2,000 piastres au village de Knéchino, enlèvent la fille de Stoyko Tafanka au village de Prenko, volent à Vassile Primator £ T. 10.

Le 19 Septembre, à Lovtchani, le Maire (Moukhtar) est attaqué et pillé près du village par des Turcs; emmené par eux, on ne sait ce qu'il est devenu depuis.

Le 20 Septembre. Au village de Lazarovopolé 550 moutons sont enlevés et trois hommes tués par des Turcs.

Le 2 Octobre. Pillage de la métairie communale du village Velio Brdo; 1,800 moutons enlevés.

District de Prilep.

Le 11 Mai. Au village de Hatino Djemil avec sa bande entre chez Mitre. Sa femme et sa fille sont violées, Mitre tué. Les deux femmes vont ensuite porter plainte à Prilep ; Djemil les rencontre et enlève la fille.

Le 18 Juillet. Deux jeunes filles sont enlevées au village de Precentitah, et ne sont rendues à leurs parents que contre une rançon de £ T. 130.

Le 14 Septembre. Des habitants de Doupna s'étaient rendus près de deux poliaks (garde-champêtres) de Debré, nommés Abdi et Ibrahim, pour traiter de la vente d'une certaine quantité de bétail. Les poliaks les tourmentaient depuis longtemps pour les faire consentir à cette vente. Le prix fut convenu et payé séance tenante. En rentrant chez eux ils furent attaqués et volés. Ils portèrent plainte et accusèrent les poliaks. L'autorité envoya des gendarmes; mais les gendarmes faisant cause commune avec les poliaks, envahirent le village et en maltraitèrent les habitants sous prétexte qu'ils avaient calomnié les poliaks.

Le 10 Octobre. Des malfaiteurs attaquent la maison de Damiano Petrof. Il tire un coup de fusil pour les effrayer. Aussitôt après arrive un lieutenant de zaptiés (gendarmes) qui ne s'occupe nullement de poursuivre les malfaiteurs, mais injurie et menace Petrof, parce qu'il possède un fusil et s'empare de l'arme.

Le 11 Octobre. Au village de Kirltzli, des Turcs entrent chez un individu qu'ils soupçonnent d'avoir de l'argent, le rossent de coups, et lui arrachent vingt-sept medjidiés en argent. L'individu est mort des suites des coups et blessures.

Le même jour, dans la ville même de Prilep, Stoyon Arlof est assommé par des Turcs, qui crient aux spectateurs: "Voilà comment on traite les Giaours."

Les habitants des villages de Strovi Gostirojna, Sekirtzi, et Slepte, après avoir subi des impositions s'élevant à £ T. 300 de la part de Yevzi, Tairoglou, se plaignent à l'autorité. Avec le produit des impositions Yevzi non seulement achète son impunir [*sic*] mais se fait nommer "poliak" (garde-champêtre).

District de Kastoria.

Mois de Septembre. Les poliaks Suleiman et Ahmed avec d'autres bandits ont détruit en partie le village de Carmani ; sur cinquante maisons, il n'en reste que vingt.

Le 30 Octobre. Près du village de Drenatchevo, Fleristo Nicolof, et Toma Atanasof, qui se rendaient au bazar avec de chevaux chargés de blé, ont été cernés par des bandits qui leur ont volé £ T. 14, 8 medjidiés, et 55 piastres, ainsi que leurs chevaux et leur blé.

District de Negodin.

Le 5 Mai. Des soldats déserteurs pénètrent dans une maison, et après en avoir tourmenté les habitants se saisissent des jeunes filles, leurs enduisent les seins de matières grasses et y mettent le feu, afin de voir, disent-ils, comment brûle la viande de Giaour. Ils entrent ensuite dans d'autres maisons où ils renouvellent les mêmes scènes.

Le 14 Mai. Le poliak Albanais Nazir, dans le village de Kojdeni, assomme à coups de bâton le vieillard Stoyan, âgé de 85 ans. Les habitants portent plainte à l'autorité qui répond par des plaisanteries. Le poliak furieux ameute les Turcs qui attaquent les plaignants et les rossent de coups.

Le 11 Juin. Village de Rojden. Des bandits entrent dans la maison de Zlati, violent les femmes, mettent le feu à la maison, après y avoir enfermé l'aïeul âgé de près de 110 ans et des enfants en bas-âge.

District de Kailar.

Le 7 Decembre. Une caravane composée d'environ vingt négociants revenant de l'étranger avec les produits de leur négoce est arrêtée près du village de Nalbant-Reni par une bande de vingt-trois malfaiteurs portant des uniformes. Les voyageurs sont cernés, fouillés, et dépouillés de ce qu'ils possèdent.

Les bandits ont enlevé :—

A George Keristof,	du village de	Brétchani,	£ T. 500.
A Filip Atannassof,	du village de	Kossinets,	£ T. 100.
A Terpka Lozarof	,,	,,	£ T. 15.
A Zanef	,,	,,	£ T. 200 et 150 medjidiés.
A Mihail Stoganoff	,,	,,	£ T. 80 et 20 medjidiés.
A Lambri et Kosta	,,	Sabanitza,	£ T. 120 et 50 medjidiés.
A Kristo Kristof	,,	,,	£ T. 200 et 50 medjidiés.
A Kaisto Kiref	,,	,,	£ T. 253 et 50 medjidiés.
A Penda Ilief	,,	Kossinetz,	£ T. 80 et 40 medjidiés.
A Neno Atanasof	,,	,,	£ T. 30.
A Vassilaki Tzwetkof	,,	,,	£ T. 45 et 10 medjidiés.
A Georgi Ivanof	,,	,,	£ T. 52 et 10 medjidiés.
A Traiko Lazarof	,,	,,	£ T. 18 et 13 medjidiés.
A Ilia Atanasof	,,	,,	£ T. 13 et 30 medjidiés.
A Naoum Kristof	,,	,,	£ T. 68 et 14 medjidiés.
A Trois autres voyageurs		,,	£ T. 135 et 55 medjidiés.

Les voyageurs s'étant plaints à l'autorité furent chassés honteusement et accusés de s'être volés eux-mêmes.

Contributions levées par les bandes Albanaises dans les derniers mois de 1880 :—

1. Village de Yagol—

		Piastres.
34 maisons à raison de 60 piastres	.. ..	2,040
11 ,, ,, 40 ,,	.. ..	440
4 ,, ,, 20 ,,	.. ..	80
Total	.. ..	2,560

Soit, 573 fr.

Village de Popovliani—

10 maisons à 80 piastres	.. ..	800
12 ,, 50 ,,	.. ..	600
7 ,, 30 ,,	.. ..	210
4 ,, 20 ,,	.. ..	80
3 ,, 15 ,,	.. ..	45
Total		1,735

Soit, 381 fr.

Sur 3 maisons taxées en raison de leur aisance supposée	.. ..	1,300

Soit, 286 fr.

Village Oslonei—

Sur 8 maisons taxées à 800 piastres et 300 ..	.. .. ..	1,700

Soit, 374 fr.

Village de Novo Selo—

4 maisons, 3 taxées à 1,200 piastres, et 1 à 500 seulement	.. ..	4,100

Soit, 902 fr.

II. 17 Août. Au marché de Kitscheska, Boungoura, et Secoula Groueff sont assassinés et volés de 13,000 piastres, soit 2,860 fr.

Le même jour et au même lieu les mêmes assassins, dont on ignore les noms, tuent Stoico, du village de Scarbon, et lui volent 2,000 piastres, soit 440 fr.

III. 23 Août. Trois femmes et trois jeunes filles du village d'Oslomei, conduisant au moulin du blé chargé sur les chevaux, sont rencontrées par des Albanais qui après les avoir violées, s'emparent des chevaux et du blé.

IV. 29 Août. Nezi Cadjoski et Bavfar, de Zaiaz, pillent la maison du Pope Zveta, du village de Doupiani. Blessé grièvement, le prêtre succombe cinq jours après.

Ils emmènent la fille de Stcico Tchourloff et exigent £ T. 50 pour sa rançon (1,100 fr.) voir Kitchevo 14, 17, 20, et 25.

V. 30 Août. Au village de Vranechnietza des Turcs tuent le Valaque Mitia pour lui voler son cheval.

VI. 1er Septembre. Kior Miteta, du village de Knegino, qui portait au percepteur de l'impôt 2,000 piastres de ses contributions est assassiné par les nommés Dalip et Mehmed, envoyés à sa rencontre, croit-on, par des gendarmes, qui le savaient porteur de cette somme.

VII. 5 Septembre. Au village de Rammé Djemailikior Fazliof tué Kofileta dans sa maison parce qu'il ne voulait pas lui laisser enlever sa fille.

11. Septembre. Deux zaptiés se disant à la poursuite d'un malfaiteur nommé Mahmoud arrêtent près de Krutchani deux individus, et trouvant qu'ils ne répondaient pas convenablement à leurs questions, les assomment à coups de bâtons.

12 Mai. Des Albanais du village de Chtourovtcha tuent le nommé Zvetkoff pour s'emparer de ses deux chevaux.

Mois de Juin. Village de Slipo :

Ali bei Abdichof fait chasser les habitants, leur déclare qu'il retire la possession de leurs maisons et qu'ils ne pourront y rentrer qu'en consentant à devenir ses fermiers.

Le 26 Septembre. Au village de Mavrovo une bande de Derbe enlève 1,500 moutons.

District de Velesse (Kiuprulu).

7. Juillet. Trois bergers : Vlia Atanasovia, Courmana, et Petra paissaient leurs moutons près de Gornoraetz. Ils sont abordés par des Turcs de Drenovo qui, sans raisons, les ont maltraités, se sont emparés de Vlia, l'ont égorgé et mis en pièces. La mère en apprenant ce crime est devenue folle.

25 Août. Au village de Gornoraetz, Mehmed Perlas conteste à Grégoire Tordanoff la possession de son champ, et grâce à connivence de l'autorité, s'empare du champ, fait emprisonner Yordanoff et profite de son absence pour mettre le feu à sa maison. Plusieurs chaumières voisines sont brûlées en même temps.

10 Octobre. Au village de Teoplitcha des zaptiés (gendarmes) pénètrent chez Igna Spassova, qu'il soupçonnent d'être Comitadji (voir district Ochrida No. 16).

Ils découvrent un fusil, pensent que c'est une preuve suffisante et le conduisent

en prison, où on le tourmente pour lui exacter des aveux et les noms de ses complices. D'autres habitants furent encore arrêtés—Golemo Radobil, Meato Tzavevitz Mramor, &c., parce qu'ils étaient en relations d'amitié avec Spassova.

Ce fait se reproduit à chaque instant sur tous les points de la Macédoine et c'est grâce à cette vague accusation de Comitadji que les prisons des districts s'emplissent de malheureux contre lesquels n'existe aucune charge sérieuse.

A Velesse l'autorité a tellement abusé de ce moyen que pour se débarrasser du trop plein des prisons elle a dû évacuer une partie des prisonniers sur Salonique, d'où ils seront déportés en Asié Mineure.

D'autres fois, des gens sont accusés de donner refuge à des bandits; ils ne peuvent s'affranchir de cette accusation qu'en donnant des gratifications aux zaptiés, sinon ils sont conduits en prison.

A Lapsista, le 25 Novembre, 160 personnes ont été arrêtées pour ce motif imaginaire.

District de Bitolia (Monastir).

Mois de Mai. Une bande attaque le village de Stradjove, incendie avec du pétrole quatre maisons, y jette vivants quatre habitants. Elle brûle ensuite le village de Diavato, emmène l'un des habitants, Christo Doulaptchieva, et ne le relâche qu'au bout de vingt jours moyennant £ T. 100, soit 2,200 fr.

1er Juin. Six "kiradjio" (colporteurs), originaires du village de Koukourantcha, passaient près du "koula" (tour de garde) de défilé Boschteritza.

Les gardiens de la tour les arrêtent et les dépouillent.

8 Juillet. Village de Tirovo (Tirnovo), Kole Traiskoff est pillé, mis tout nu, torturé avec des baïonnettes de pistolet rougies au feu. Ahmed Bamia et Malich Curserdar commandaient ceux qui exécutaient ces atrocités.

10 Septembre. Des Turcs enlèvent du village de Skotchrir trois habitants qu'ils emmènent pour les rançonner. L'un est relâché moyennant £ T. 150, soit environ 3,400 fr.

13 Septembre. Les fils de Dervich Aga interceptent la voie à Natchks et imposent un droit de circulation aux passants. Le 20 du même mois ils pillent les métaires de ce village, et enlèvent tout le bétail.

Vers la même époque Navum Pavloff, du village de Trn, est attaqué chez lui; sa maison est brûlée, son frère est tué.

Vers la même époque, une bande de Debre a capturé au village de Heino 400 moutons.

22 Décembre. Village d'Iveni. Le poliak Selim, de sa propre autorité, impose une contribution aux habitants, s'empare d'une jeune fille et la viole. Des contributions sont également imposées aux villages de Diviatza et Poustureka.

District d'Ochrida.

Premiers jours d'Avril. Akif Keur enlève dans le village de Nelichta une jeune fille de 17 ans, Zarafina.

8 Juin. Des Tcherkes du village St. Théodor pillent le village de Leskovatz.

5 Juillet. Village de Karadartzi. Des Turcs mettent le feu à la maison de Mihel Abroff.

9 Juillet. Au village de Krouchitza des Turcs entrent chez une vieille femme nommée Petkovitva, violent sa fille, tuent la mère, qui veut essayer de la défendre.

27 Juillet. Une bande de Debre attaque la metairie communale de Gorna Bulitza, et enlève 2,000 moutons, et 200 bœufs. Elle pille ensuite les métairies des villages de Vetchani et de Tach Meuroniteha.

27 Juillet. Au village de Pletver le fils de Atchenneff est enlevé pour obtenir du père une rançon.

La rançon n'ayant pu être payée, l'enfant a été battu, violé, et renvoyé mourant. Il a expiré au bout de quelques jours.

7 Août. Dans la ville même d'Ochrida, le traiteur Yovantche est tué par des Turcs sous les yeux du Caïmacan, qui laisse faire.

28 Août. Village de Gapoldiptzi. Une bande impose aux habitants une contribution de 1,500 piastres, soit environ 300 fr., payable en trois jours. Après paiement de cette somme, les bandits, non satisfaits, ont enlevé la fille de Noveslata.

25 Août. Le village de Nortchani est incendié, une femme tuée; quatre habitants sont emmenés par les incendiaires et l'on n'a pu retrouver leurs traces.

Mois de Septembre. Vingt-cinq Bulgares du village de Kouratiza sont faits

prisonniers et emmenés par une bande de Debre. Ceux qui ont pu payer une rançon ont été relâchés. Les autres n'ont pas reparu.

6 Septembre. Deux Turcs du village de Touris assassinent le villageois Drougof parce qu'il ne les salue pas.

6 Septembre. Dans les environs d'Ochrida le colporteur Pirgan, de Prilep, se voit enlever son cheval chargé de marchandises et on lui vole £ T. 70.

Octobre. Des bandits de Debre enlèvent au village de Sevrani 180 moutons, tuent tous les habitants; au village de Peoke ils enlèvent trois personnes comme otages; l'une est relâchée moyennant rançon, les deux autres n'ont pas reparu.

3 Novembre. Dans la ville même d'Ochrida, quartier Valaque Papa Stefanof, à l'occasion de son mariage, avait invité un certain nombre de personnes. Au milieu du repas un coup de feu part du dehors et deux femmes tombent mortellement blessées.

18 Novembre. Les marchands Manda Stojeffé et Fakia Mitcheff, du village Psoder, sont attaqués près du village de Presnitza et dépouillés de £ T. 46, et de leurs chevaux chargés de marchandises.

Le même jour et au même endroit deux colporteurs des villages de Kutitza et Bravitza (district de Kortchain), revenant de Constantinople, sont dépouillés de £ T. 350 et de deux mulets chargés de marchandises.

Dans la première quinzaine d'Août le Caïmacan (Préfet) d'Ochrida demande quelques troupes pour faire cesser le brigandage.

On lui envoie des Bachi-Bouzouks qu'il cantonne au village de Prespan. Il n'en résulte bien entendu que de nouvelles vexations pour les habitants. Un jour ils rencontrent sur la montagne d'Istok le nommé Slavo Tani, chassant et muni d'un port d'armes; le maltraitent en le qualifiant de Comitadji (c'est le mot qu'on jette à tout propos à ceux qu'on accuse de faire partie des Comités conspirateurs). Ils le poursuivent, rencontrent en route des bergers qu'ils traitent aussi de Comitadjis, tirent sur eux et en tuent un.

Arrondissement de Chtip (Istip).

Mois d'Août. Au village d'Oumiartzi, des bandits massacrent Antoine Gelescoff et sa femme; à Vrabnitza Kitza, sa femme et ses enfants, ainsi que Arsse, sont assassinés par les mêmes.

Dans le même mois, Arça Rountef et sa femme, au village de Novo Selo, sont rencontrés par des soldats Turcs; l'homme est lié à un arbre et sa femme violée sous ses yeux. Trois jours après la femme mourait des suites des violences qu'elle avait subies.

2 Février, 1881. Le journal "La Turquie" dit que trente Bulgares amenés de Salonique par le dernier bateau seront envoyés dans les prisons d'Asie Mineure comme brigands; or, ces gens, loin d'être des malfaiteurs, sont des victimes.

No. 6.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord, *Salonica, February 24, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of two letters which I have received from Mr. H. Suter, who is engaged in mining operations in the district of Cassandra

I have brought under the notice of Attif Pasha, the Military Governor of Salonica, the substance of the one referring to Mr. Suter's personal safety, whereupon his Excellency promised to send a guard of twenty soldiers to be stationed at the village of Isvor; and, further, to make inquiries with regard to the alleged connection of Dimitri Apostoloudi with the lawless proceedings of his brother Giorgio, and said that, if it is really the case that such a connection does exist, he will order the former to be removed to Salonica.

As regards the dismissing of the Christian auxiliary police force, mentioned in Mr. Suter's second letter, Attif Pasha, in answer to my inquiries on the subject, told me that this measure has been applied to all villages and denominations indiscriminately, for the reason that the increase of the military force in the Vilayet of Salonica renders the assistance of these auxiliaries no longer necessary; and with

the object of maintaining tranquillity in the district of Cassandra, he has sent two battalions of infantry, one to be stationed at Polyghero, and the other to be distributed at Sikia, Stavros, Erysso, and other landing-places on the promontories of Cassandra, Longos, and Mount Athos.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Mr. Suter to Consul-General Blunt.

Isvor, February 19, 1881.

Sir,

I BEG to inform you that the five soldiers I had here by permission of Shemshedin Effendi, the Major of Polyghero, were ordered away by the Yuz-Bashi of Larigova, Osman Effendi, this evening, so that there is not a single soldier in this village for my protection against brigands, which are, from all accounts, numerous.

It is a well-known fact that the brigand Giorgio Apostoloudos is in the habit of coming to the house of his brother Dimitri in this village, where he receives food and shelter from him.

Giorgio Apostoloudos is forming a band of brigands, and has already collected six followers, but as yet they have no arms; and are waiting for Giorgio's brother to smuggle Martini rifles from Salonica or Greece.

Apostoloudos' brother has taken great exception to my working the mines here, as it seems that he has been trying to get another Company to work them, and as he is a man of a very bad character, I have suspicions that he will set his brother to do me mischief.

If the Government will guarantee that no harm will befall them, I have reliable witnesses who will prove Apostoloudos' complicity with the brigands this year and last.

It will be impossible for British subjects soon to live in the interior, owing to the intrigues of one or two individuals such as this Apostoloudos.

I would beg, Sir, that you request the authorities to allow a sufficient guard to be stationed at Isvor, or else to allow me to have an armed force at my own expense.

The business I am carrying on will be a source of revenue to the Government, and I ought to receive protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SUTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Mr. Suter to Consul-General Blunt.

Isvor, February 16, 1881.

Sir,

THE Christian Sirdars, or assistant police, have lately been deprived of the arms issued to them by the Turkish Government, and since then three bands of brigands have appeared in this district.

The general opinion is, that the Government has disarmed the Christian police owing to the present state of affairs between Turkey and Greece.

From what I can learn, however, the Christians who have had arms issued to them have always proved loyal to the Government, and I have heard of no instance where the confidence placed in them by the Government has been abused. Indeed, many of these Christian police, especially Captain Varsili Cara-Andonis, of Novo-Sello, were the inveterate foes of brigands, and since Varsili was made Captain of Sirdars brigands were not heard of for many months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SUTER.

No. 7.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 11.)

My Lord,

Scutari, February 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Mr. Goschen on the unsatisfactory state of North Albania, and the evil effects arising from the prohibition placed on the export of grain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Goschen.

Sir,

Scutari, February 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that the greatest discontent exists here concerning the utter weakness and inefficiency into which the local Courts have fallen.

The complaint is general that these Tribunals exist merely to enforce the payment of Government taxes, or to levy heavy fees wherewith to pay the salaries of the officers of the Courts.

I understand that it is contemplated by the inhabitants of Scutari to send a deputation to the Vali to represent this state of things, and to inform his Excellency that, if the Ottoman Government does not find means of paying some of its debts contracted with the mercantile body here, the consequent complete dearth of money will oblige the North Albanians to declare their inability to meet all fiscal impositions.

No fault is found with Hadji Osman Pasha, who, under most difficult circumstances, endeavours to carry out the constant orders received from Constantinople to raise money, and at the same time to weigh as lightly as possible on a people who have been reduced to an extreme state of penury by the misfortunes of the last few years. The irritation felt is all attributed to the acts of the Supreme Government, which, even in the small matter of allowing Hadji Osman Pasha to remain of the inferior grade of Brigadier-General, is thereby considered to level a mark of ill-will and disrespect towards the North Albanians.

I have no hesitation in bearing witness to your Excellency that the change for the worse in the welfare of these people, noticeable since my first arrival in the country five years ago, is alarming. It is also disheartening, for, either from ignorance or a misconception of economic laws, the Turkish Government only appears bent upon consummating the general ruin.

As an instance, I need only state that the last grain harvest was of exceptional abundance, and more than sufficient for the consumption of the country for several years. In presence of the scarcity of money, this excess of produce ought to have proved a fortunate interposition, but it has not been allowed to be so, for the Porte has most strictly prohibited the exportation of all grain from North Albania, notwithstanding very pressing Petitions from all classes sent to Constantinople to throw purchasers upon glutted markets.

I had for a moment thought that the restriction upon the exportation of grain was connected with the state of political affairs between Turkey and Greece, but this cannot be so, as the prohibition does not go beyond Durazzo, and trade is free in Lower Albania.

About 90,000 horse-loads of grain of all kinds could easily be exported from North Albania without enhancing prices here, as the corn markets abroad are not at all pressed; and this would represent the introduction into North Albania of upwards of 80,000*l.*, a sum which not only would alleviate greatly the condition of the inhabitants, but would also facilitate the collection of the Imperial taxes.

If your Excellency could in any way induce the Porte to understand the advantages to be derived from the removal of its present prohibition on the exportation of grain, I can safely assert that you would not only be securing an inestimable favour for this much-tried people, but also be aiding to ameliorate the position of the Ottoman Administration with the North Albanians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 8.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 16.)

My Lord, *Salonica, March 7, 1881.*

NO less than 32 convicts (9 Albanians, 8 Turks, 8 Greeks, and 7 Bulgarians) effected their escape last week from the prisons of Salonica.

Among the number is Yonouz Ghega, the notorious Albanian brigand, whose capture I reported to your Lordship on the 28th November, 1880.

The Governor-General has offered a reward of 100*l.* for his recapture.

The chief gaoler and some police officials are strongly suspected of having assisted these fugitive convicts, and, in consequence, have been placed in arrest by the Military Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 9.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 16.)

My Lord, *Salonica, March 8, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a letter from my correspondent at Serres on the subject of the suppression of brigandage in that sandjak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Mr. Langdon to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extract.) *Serres, February 28, 1881.*

REGARDING the extinction of brigandage, it is alleged here this favourable result is owing to the presence of troops; the inclemency of winter also greatly helped. At first Tosca Albanians were brought out here, but their presence produced little effect in maintaining order and tranquillity. Last summer, when the troops arrived, martial law was proclaimed; the inhabitants of Serres and the villages were ordered to remain in their houses, and not issue therefrom an hour after sunset. The villagers were ordered not to give bread, provisions, or clothing to the brigands, on pain of being exposed to the rigours of the law.

The brigands for a time, of course, wrested these by compulsion, and this they could easily do, as the authorities never sanctioned the villagers to fire upon the robbers or take the law in their own hands, even in self-defence.

On arrival of the military the villagers denounced the robbers. They were hunted out, and about eighty of them killed, others fled; this broke down their organization.

Many individuals, compromised for having supplied provisions to the brigands, were brought here, and finally sent out of the province; also several relations of the brigands, both men and women, were removed from the province, whether innocent or culpable of the misdeeds of their relative robbers, but now that the province is quiet they are allowed to return.

Although brigandage is fortunately extinct, there is still a feeling of insecurity in the district owing to outrages perpetrated by the "Mubadjirs" (war fugitives from Bulgaria). Villagers belated on the road are liable to be forced to dismount from their animals, which they—the "Mubadjirs"—take from them.

About a month ago a certain Vourba, a person of some influence and very respected, went out fishing on the River Kara-Sou; he never returned; his disappearance is a mystery. It is not known whether he was drowned or met his death by violence. The latter supposition prevails.

No. 10.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 16, 1881.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 12th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a Circular addressed to the Agents of the Great Powers at Sophia by the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the immigration of the inhabitants of Macedonia into Bulgaria; and I have to state to you that the language you held to M. Stoitchoff before you had received his Circular, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 11.

Earl Granville to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 16, 1881.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 24th ultimo, inclosing copies of letters from Mr. H. Suter relative to the prevalence of brigandage in the district of Cassandra, and I approve the representations you made to the Military Governor of Salonica with regard to the personal safety of Mr. Suter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 12.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received March 19.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, March 12, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of my despatch of to-day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador, reporting the illegal release of a notorious villain of the name of Mustafá Pronio, the murder of a Christian by a Government official, and the appearance of brigands in the vicinity of Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Prevesa, March 12, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of your Excellency, that Mustafá Pronio has been released through the interference, it appears, of Ferik Zeki Pasha, commander of the troops in Epirus.

The release and consequently return of such a villain to his native village cannot but be looked upon as a great violation of justice, besides danger to many of his fellow villagers, more especially that, according to Mr. Kypriotis, who communicated to me the above, it would seem that Mustafá has even been appointed Colonel of Irregulars.

Mr. Kypriotis also reports the murder of a Christian named Pano Costa Exarchi near the village of Pérama by Achmet Effendi Abdullah, a Government official, because the former refused to give up the cultivation of a field which apparently did not belong to him. The murderer, however, was immediately apprehended, but the release of Mustafá Pronio, Mr. Kypriotis adds, makes him hope that he, too, will be treated in the same way!

I regret to have to report the appearance of brigands in the vicinity of Prevesa. On the night of the 10th instant at Triandafilia, the winter resort of English

sportsmen, four Wallachs, named respectively Giovanni Dondi, Seguna, and two cousins, Baldavelli, were carried off.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 13.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 23.)

My Lord, *Salonica, March 14, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a Report of Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli, relative to the tranquillity which prevails in the Sandjak of Drama; also the extract from a letter of my correspondent in the district of Cassandra, relative to the state of affairs in that district and the conduct of the troops stationed in the village of Isvor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extrait.) *Cavalla, le 5 Mars,* 1881.

LA tranquillité publique est excellente et la sûreté irréprochable, même dans les campagnes, malgré la misère de l'année précédente, le nombre des déserteurs, les conséquences de guerres passées, et le conflit des races qui habitent ces contrées, et à la veille des événements qui pourraient avoir jusqu'ici leur contre-coup.

Les Turcs sont très confiants dans leurs forces vis-à-vis de la Grèce, qui, en cas de guerre, ils supposent sera laissée à lui-même sans aide aucune.

Les Grecs ont beaucoup de confiance dans la politique de l'Angleterre et de son honorable Ministère, et attendent avec calme les événements sans formation des Comités, sans souscriptions, ni publiques ni secrètes, en faveur des armements, et sans un mouvement des volontaires bien accentué pour la Grèce.

Je crois que, malgré ces apparences de tranquillité, en cas de guerre les Grecs de ces pays dévoileront leur feu maintenant sous les cendres, mais pour le moment tout se passe au mieux dans le meilleur des sandjaques possibles.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Cassandra.

(Extract.) *Isvor, March 11,* 1881.

NO acts of brigandage have occurred since my arrival here.

There are brigands, however, in the district, and they are frequently seen. One band, composed of twelve men, is commanded by Thomas Catzaros, and has its quarters between this and Mount Cholomdra; another, commanded by Athanass Shipolnikioti, consists of seven men; another, which confines its operations to Kalameria, is said to number twenty men, and is composed of Turks and Christians, but I am not informed as to who is the chief.

There is also another band lately commanded by Giorgio Apostoluda, and which prowls about in the vicinity of this village and Varvara, as it is composed of natives. Giorgio Apostoluda has left this band, owing to a dispute he had with two of the company, the brothers Deliyanni.

It seems that Dimitri Apostoluda some short time ago paid a visit to this band, for the purpose of having a certain Dimitri Vlacho, timber merchant of this place, murdered, and endeavoured to persuade the brigands to shoot Dimitri Vlacho. The Deliyanni brothers, having some years ago received a favour at the hands of Dimitri Vlacho, refused to hurt him in any way, and abused Dimitri Apostoluda, whereupon his brother Giorgio came forward to take his part, and a quarrel ensued resulting in the departure of the former. Giorgio Apostoluda wishes to return to his allegiance to the Government, but wants to have his pardon guaranteed before presenting himself.

There is also a feud between Thomas Catzaro and Athanass Shipolnikioti owing to a dispute which arose last summer between them at Reshidnik, and which resulted in the exchange of shots between their respective bands.

Catzaro has sworn to exterminate Athanass and his band, and will not commit any act of brigandage until his vow is fulfilled, and he is now in pursuit of his enemy.

They are now stationed at Isvor sixty troops of the line under the command of a captain and a lieutenant. They are also employed in collecting taxes, and I must bear witness to the very lenient manner in which these two officers behave to defaulters. I happened to witness the following scene:—

A man was called up to pay some 80 piastres, and in reply stated that he had no money, but that he was owed by two or three parties; instead of insisting on the payment of the tax the man was sent off to collect his debts or to get those who owed him to pay the tax for him.

I observe that the troops pay regularly for all their purchases, and are very orderly.

No. 14.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 23.)

My Lord, *Salonica, March 14,* 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth's Report to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople on the subject of the adventures of a female brigand chief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Mr. St. John.

Sir, *Larissa, March 8,* 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report on the adventures of a female brigand chief, as the incidents of her life, apart from their romantic novelty, may not be found entirely devoid of political as well as social interest.

Near the town of Schatista, in the Province of Monastir, there lived some four years ago a poor family of Greek tenants, the eldest son of which household, named Yani Kriaka, joined the insurrection of 1878, and on the cessation of hostilities betook himself to the vocation of a brigand.

The Turkish authorities, to bring the youth within the limits of the law, violently seized and imprisoned his father, mother, and brother, and would have done the same with his sister Peristera had she not evaded their purpose by joining her brother in the mountains.

Peristera, young as she was, concealing her sex and assuming the name of Spano Vangheli, became one of Kriaka's band, until about six months ago, when the brother met his death in an engagement with the Turkish troops. The sister, tired of a mountaineer's life, would have returned to her home, were it not for the tidings that the whole of her family had been exiled to a distant country. Being thus left apparently friendless and destitute in condition, the girl bound herself to a vow of vengeance against the Turks, to whose injustice and oppression she attributed all her misfortunes. She joined the remnant of her brother's band, then numbering to twelve brigands, under the leadership of Tzangha, who, however, about three months ago, finding the "profession did not pay," surrendered himself with seven followers to the Turkish authorities at Larissa. But Peristera was not discouraged by this desertion; she, on the contrary, secured for herself the chieftaincy of the five remaining number, by keeping them in ignorance of her sex, and by renouncing her share in any coming booty; and thus winning their obedience led them on, aided by an auxiliary of nightwalkers, to several successful expeditions against the Mahommedans of the Schatista, Tricalla, and Ellassona districts.

The exploits of her band attracted the attention of the notorious Yani Kimikam and his fifteen robbers, who hastened to bring about a meeting wherein to negotiate an offensive and defensive alliance. The brigand chief chanced to be an old friend of Kriaka, and Peristera, making him her confidant, a mutual attachment sprung up between them, which resulted for the time being in the union of the two bands. But on the 21st ultimo the brigands were surrounded in the Khassia region by a large force, composed of a body of Albanian police and a detachment of Turkish troops, and in the encounter Yani Kimikam was severely disabled and the band dispersed.

The fidelity and courage displayed by the girl in these circumstances were worthy of a better cause. She remained behind endeavouring to save her wounded companion by firing in quick succession on the advancing guard, when another bullet stretched him dead at her feet. Making her escape amid a volley of shot, which only pierced her clothing, she wandered alone and without food for three days on the mountains, until coming across a Greek shepherd she obtained from him a morsel of bread, and forced him, on the penalty of death, to conduct her in safety and secrecy to the nearest village.

The man took her to his hut at Mavrell, a small hamlet in the Ellassona district, from where she wrote a note expressing a wish to surrender herself to the Consulate. The Civil and Military Governors of Thessaly promised she should not be molested, and offered, moreover, to bring about the release of her family, if she would, in the meanwhile, remain quiet and under the immediate care and responsibility of the Greek Archbishop. Two priests were consequently sent to bring her to Larissa, where she arrived on the 2nd instant; but, owing to a dense crowd of idle spectators, I did not think it fit to have her brought here, and arranged instead to see her at the Archbishopric.

She wore the usual brigand costume, consisting of buckskin trousers and sandals, a black cap, a tight jacket with loose sleeves, a three-fold kilt besmeared with grease, a brilliant girdle with Albanian pistols, an Eastern scimitar, and a Greek rifle. Her only ornaments were a silver breast-plate with connected links, and a chain of small coins, to which was attached the seal of the bandit. In appearance she seemed above the medium height, well proportioned, and rather handsome; and although, when excited, she is decidedly passionate in temper and vehement in speech, yet in her calmer moments the sadness of her face betrays a broken spirit, which perhaps was once actuated by higher motives than mere hatred and revenge.

She knows how to read and write, and is acquainted with needlework; and now that she is dressed in maidenly clothing her effeminate appearance renders it difficult to believe that within the last two years this girl of seventeen had shared in eight sanguinary combats, and had braved so long the fatigues and hardships of a wild and perilous life in the mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 15.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 24.)

Scutari, March 12, 1881.

(Extract.)

I AM told that the Ottoman military authorities abstain from molesting the brigands in Lower Albania, whether they are Mussulmans or Christians, as it is believed the first may be of use as irregular troops in case of the outbreak of war, and a conflict with the Christian brigands might just now be inconveniently magnified into the commencement of hostilities.

No. 16.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received April 4.)

Corfu, March 31, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copies of two despatches just received from Vice-Consul Onofrio, of Santa Maura:—

1. Relative to the preparations in course at Santa Maura and its vicinity.
2. Respecting brigandage on the Turco-Greek frontier.

With regard to No. 1, Mr. Onofrio tells me, in another letter, that up to the 27th instant no land transport, or commissariat, or ambulance services had been organized, or even discussed, as far as he could learn. On my speaking to one of the authorities here on the subject, he replied that these matters would be taken in hand if the negotiations at Constantinople fail.

With regard to No. 2, there is no doubt but that there are in Epirus a considerable number of the filibusters who had been collected by the "Patriotic Committees" in 1877-78, and who, ever since the failure of the so-called insurrection of Epirus in 1878, have been a thorn in the side of the Turkish administration in Epirus, but, unfortunately, chiefly amongst the defenceless Christian districts of Zagora and others, where they are, I believe, still pursuing their abominable vocation, to the terror of the above districts.

Many Greek politicians, I believe, consider that these are the best means of convincing Europe that the Turks are powerless and incapable of maintaining order in the adjoining provinces; but at the same time, it is questionable whether the Rayahs of Turkey prefer this system to Turkish misrule.

From what I hear from well-informed persons, there appears to be no doubt that, in the event of Epirus not being included within the new frontier, and also of Europe coercing Greece to take what may be offered to her, that the Greeks will have recourse to the old system of sending revolutionary bands across the border, and leaving nothing undone to stir up disturbances in Epirus.

There are politicians here who seem to think that there may be a league chiefly of the small Slav countries, such as Servia, Bulgaria, Montenegro, &c., to rise against Turkey on a signal from Greece, and to bring on a general conflagration; but these politicians also ask themselves if Greece would be promoting their own cause by thus co-operating with the Slavs in the destruction of Turkey in Europe; they also ask whether the Slavs do not really wish to make a catspaw of Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

Sir,

Santa Maura, March 26, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that a camp will be formed at Arapis, the Plain of Catuna, in this island, having been considered to be a long way off from the frontier.

2. Authentic information has been received here from Zanerda, to the effect that the "Bobolina" landed there last week four heavy Armstrong guns, one (not two) steam-launch (to be fitted out as torpedo-boat, for service in the Gulf of Arta), a number of torpedoes, and other war material, all of which were removed this week to Vouitza, whither a quantity of steam coals was also sent round by sea from this fort. The "Bobolina" landed also seventy-two cases of "Gras" rifles and 2,000 cases of ammunition at Astakos, destined for Carvassará.

3. It is also proposed to fortify Vuvalà, one of the Greek inlets in the Gulf of Arta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FR. ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

Sir,

Santa Maura, March 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that intelligence reached this place from Prevesa to the effect that a band of brigands, composed of six Moslems and four Christians, made its appearance a few days ago near Mikalitzi, a village some

three hours distant from Prevesa, and captured and carried off two Vlach shepherds, for whose ransom a large sum is demanded.

2. Intelligence from Prevesa of yesterday's date also brings that considerable quantity of war material and provisions were landed there last week, and that a new battery is being constructed on the coast to the north-west of Fort Pandokrátora.

A Turkish iron-clad, which cast anchor off that port last week, remains still there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FR. ONOFRIO.

P.S.—Since writing the above, intelligence has been received here that in consequence of the energetic steps taken by Kiasim Bey, the Governor of Prevesa, the two captives have been released without ransom, and that the brigands are being pursued.

F. O.

No. 17.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 6.)

Salonica, March 26, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a very serious act of brigandage was perpetrated about a fortnight ago in the district of Kastoria, in the Vilayet of Monastir.

The Greek brigand chief, Davelli, at the head of his gang, composed of about forty individuals, waylaid and captured a caravan of no less than 100 persons, mostly small traders, returning from a fair in the vicinity, and after plundering, released them with the exception of ten, whom he carried off to the mountains; of the ten one was a Turk, two were Christians, and seven Jews. Three Turks and one Christian who attempted to escape were at once shot down.

Davelli, in order to insure an easy capture, had taken the precaution to cut the telegraph wires between Anaselitza, Kastoria, and Monastir.

In the Sandjaks of Serres and Drama tranquillity continues to prevail; so also in the district of Cassandra, although bands have been seen in the neighbourhood of the villages.

In the district of Catterina, however, little change has taken place in the state of affairs, and the brigands have recently carried off some hostages and committed their usual depredations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 18.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 28.)

Salonica, April 18, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a letter from Mr. Solomon Juda, a British subject established at Salonica, relative to the prevalence of brigandage in the Nahié of Niausta, in district of Caraferia (Veria), in Macedonia.

As Mr. Juda has a large interest in a cotton-mill at Niausta, I have communicated with the Military Governor of Salonica on the subject of his letter.

His Excellency told me that a company of regular troops has already been sent from Caraferia to Niausta, and another will proceed there to-morrow from the garrison at this place.

Selami Pasha, General of Division, who is about to assume the command of the troops in Caraferia, also assured me, in answer to my representations, that he would take further measures for the protection of the inhabitants of Niausta.

With the exception of the Sandjaks of Drama and Serres, which continue to be free from brigandage, the rest of Macedonia, including the Vilayet of Monastir, is

lamentably disturbed by this crying evil. Just four days before Mr. Suter was captured a Turkish land-owner of Salonica, Mishti Agha Zadé Amish Agha, while on a visit to his estate at Levene, in the district of Cassandra, and about seven hours distant from Salonica, was attacked and carried off by a band of brigands. His farm-steward and a servant, both Turks, who tried to defend him, were killed, and the brigands now demand £ T. 6,000 for his ransom.

About a fortnight ago a military detachment came up with Nicko and his band, who were concealed in a forest in the district of Caraferia. A rather serious collision ensued; Nicko, however, effected his escape, but not before two of his men and two of the soldiers had been killed, and one of the latter seriously wounded.

Last week intelligence was received here from Monastir that one of the captives (a Jew) who were carried off by the brigand chief, Davelli, as reported in my despatch of the 26th ultimo, has been killed, as his ransom was not forthcoming.

Some three weeks ago six Christian inhabitants, including a priest, Papa Cotcho (Constantine), of the village of Selteha, in district of Anassilitza, in Vilayet of Monastir, were all killed in the vicinity of the Albanian village of Dedeler, in the same district. It is strongly suspected that this massacre was perpetrated by some of the inhabitants of the last-named village.

The Albanian robber chief, Yonouz Ghega, whose escape, with thirty-one convicts, from the prisons of Salonica, I reported to your Lordship in my despatch of the 7th ultimo, has formed a band and resumed his operations in the district of Yenidjeh-Vardar, contiguous to that of Salonica.

I should not omit to add that Hadji Ibrahim Agha's son, who was carried off from Covanza in September last by the brigand chief, Panayotti Caloyero, has not been released yet. The poor father, who was also captured, but subsequently released for the purpose of raising the ransom-money, has already remitted £ T. 1,200 to the brigands, who, however, refuse to relinquish their captive, and threaten to kill him unless they get the full amount of £ T. 3,000.

Thessaly, also, although full of troops, continues to suffer from brigandage.

Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth writes as follows, under date the 6th instant:—

"When the brigands failed to carry off Mr. Christo-Ghiorghiadi they captured a Turk, a Jew, and a Christian. The ransom for the poor Jew was partly collected at Larissa and Volo, but the brigands killed him and the Turk before all the money could be raised. Now, some five days ago, part of this band were surprised by villagers and soldiers near Velestino, where they went to steal goats; five of them were killed and their heads taken to Volo. There was a Christian hostage in the hands of the brigands when attacked, whom they killed out of revenge while the fight lasted. His body was taken to Millies and interred there by his relatives."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—After writing the above I was informed by my Hellenic colleague that, in a recent letter from the Hellenic Consul at Serres, it is stated that brigandage has again broken out in that sandjak; and that a caravan, on the way from Nevrocop to Serres, was attacked on the 9th instant by highwaymen, and plundered of 1,000*l*.

J. E. B.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Mr. Juda to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonique, le 17 Avril, 1881.

M. le Consul-Général,

JE ne dois rester plus si indifférent sur une question qui touche tout directement mes intérêts les plus vitaux.

C'est sur le brigandage qui a commencé déjà à dévaster les alentours de Niausta et qui menace la ville même.

A ce sujet les employés de notre filature depuis quelques jours ont commencé à me faire attentif dans le but de prendre quelques mesures de précaution.

Dans une lettre datée le 15 et que j'ai reçu hier au soir, je rencontre le passage suivant:—

"Nous sommes dans la situation la plus pénible. Nous sommes presque

assiégés par les brigands. Des préparatifs qu'ils font Dieu seul connaît quelle sera notre fatale destinée. Nous vous écrivons ces mots avec le trouble dans notre âme, et nous vous prions bien chaudement d'agir soit officiellement ou par le moyen d'amis afin qu'on envoie sans retard à notre secours 200 à 300 soldats avec un Commandant capable pour nous protéger. Nous vous supplions de nouveau de prendre au sérieux notre situation et d'agir promptement et énergiquement pour sauver nos intérêts et notre vie."

Dans cette circonstance je n'ai autre refuge, M. le Consul-Général, que de venir vous supplier de vouloir employer votre haute influence auprès des autorités compétentes, afin de prévenir un désastre qui menace mes intérêts et ceux de la paisible population de Niausta.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) SALOMON JUDA.

No. 19.

Earl Granville to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 18th instant, inclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Solomon Juda, a British subject, relative to the prevalence of brigandage in the Nahié of Niausta, where he is part owner of a cotton-mill, and reporting the steps you had taken to obtain the dispatch of military protection to that district.

I approve the action you took in this case, but I have to instruct you to inform Mr. Juda, and any other British subjects who may be exposed to danger in districts threatened by brigands, that if they remain in such localities they will do so at their own risk, as Her Majesty's Government will not secure their safety by ransoming them or by other means if they should be captured.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 20.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 5.)

My Lord, *Salonica, April* 23, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th instant on the subject of the prevalence of brigandage in the Nahié of Niausta and other districts in Macedonia, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further letter from the British subject, Mr. Solomon Juda, stating that the arrival of troops at Niausta had reassured the inhabitants.

The brigand chief, Nicko, perpetrated last week a horrible act of revenge, an account of which I inclose, on a Christian villager of Niausta, who was employed by the Turkish military authorities to watch his movements.

The band of seventy Bulgarians who, as reported by my telegram of the 21st instant, crossed the frontier in the direction of Djuma, is under the leadership of Kukulis, the same individual who was engaged in similar proceedings in the Sandjak of Serres during 1879-80; and the Italian Consular Agent, in his despatch of the 17th instant confirming the above intelligence, states his having heard from well-informed sources that other bands of robbers were preparing to renew their incursions into Macedonia from the direction of Dubnitza in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

Mr. Juda to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Salonique, le* 22 *Avril*, 1881.

JE viens par la présente vous prier d'accepter mes respectueux remercîments pour les promptes démarches que vous avez fait à la suite de ma lettre du 17 courant au sujet de l'état de brigandage à Niausta.

Dans une lettre que je viens à l'instant de recevoir de mes agents à Niausta, je suis informé que la tranquillité y commence à régner, grâce à l'arrivée des troupes et aux mesures exécutées par les autorités Impériales, et que la confiance renaît entre les habitants.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) SALOMON JUDA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Memorandum respecting the horrible Cruelties committed by Nicko.

(Translation.)

NICKO and his band having recently crossed over to the mountainous district of Caraferia and Niausta, with the object of effecting the capture of a rich Turk, Bessim Bey, paid a villager of Niausta, who accepted to act as spy.

The latter not having kept his promise, and knowing Nicko's whereabouts, gave notice to the Commander of the troops, whom he guided to the brigands' hiding-place. The troops surrounded the brigands, 13 in number, and began firing on them; 2 brigands were killed as well as 2 soldiers. Nicko, with the rest of his band, escaped, and after a few days he succeeded in seizing the peasant spy.

He cut off his right hand, his nose, one of his ears, and his tongue, and forced him to carry them tied up in a bag to the Mudir of Niausta, with a message to the following effect:—"Nicko thus deals with spies and traitors." The villager, suffering from loss of blood and the cruelties he had been subjected to, expired an hour after he had delivered the bag and the message to the Mudir.

April 22, 1881.

No. 21.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

My Lord, *Salonica, April* 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on Monday morning, the 25th instant, four desperate Bulgarian brigands, belonging to the band of the notorious chief, Tzerné, went to Perlepé, a town about six hours from Monastir and twelve from Kiuprulu, and effected an entrance into the house of the Local Government Treasurer or Accountant (a native Bulgarian), whom they seized and bound, and then proceeded to ransack the house.

In the meantime the Kaïmakam,* upon receiving notice of the occurrence, went immediately to the spot and surrounded the house with his police. He summoned the brigands to surrender, but was answered by a volley which killed two of the policemen and a relative of the Kaïmakam. This so exasperated the Mahommedans that they seized their arms with the intention of attacking the Christian part of the town, and it was with great difficulty that the Kaïmakam, who appears to have acted with courage and energy, averted this danger. He succeeded in directing the fury of the mob against the brigands, and, with their assistance, regularly laid siege to the house. The brigands made a desperate resistance, and killed two Christians who assisted the authorities.

The Kaïmakam at last resorted to the measure of setting fire to the house, and in effecting this another Turk was killed.

The besieged held out until the house was enveloped in smoke and flames, when

* Abdulrahman Effendi, a native of Salonica.

three of them rushed forth, and, in endeavouring to cut their way through their assailants, were shot down. The fourth perished in the flames, but, strange to say, the inmates of the house escaped unhurt.

The above details have been furnished to me by a person who arrived this evening from Perlepé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 22.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 3, 1881.*

I TOOK the opportunity yesterday of an interview with his Excellency Assim Pasha to communicate to him the substance of Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch to your Lordship of the 18th ultimo, describing the state of brigandage in Macedonia and Thessaly.

His Excellency, who seemed to know much of the country personally, and who had at a previous stage of his career, as he explained to me, been engaged in suppressing brigandage on a large scale, seemed to be acquainted with many of the facts related by Mr. Blunt, and declared that every effort was being made to deal with them. He added, however, that much of what happened must be characterized as "political brigandage." It was part of a system to keep the country disturbed for political objects, and he had no doubt but that as soon as the Greek question is finally settled, it will be possible to suppress the evil.

I should add that I had spoken of the present state of things in Macedonia as conveying the impression to Europe that the Turks were losing the capacity for government, and that it was impossible to exaggerate the danger to the Turkish cause of the growth of this impression.

With reference to the state of affairs in Salonica itself, I receive very unfavourable accounts. I am told that the danger there is twofold. The Acting Governor, who is acting for Dervish Pasha, the Governor-General, who is absent in Prisrend, is quite unfit for his post; and secondly, in addition to Christian brigands and ruffians of every description hovering about the neighbourhood, there is an equally dangerous element in the native Albanian gendarmerie, formed by Abédine Pasha. This force, composed of about one thousand men, is said to be left at large to keep itself as it likes on the inhabitants. The authorities wish to be rid of them, but as a large sum is due to them for arrears of pay, the force is left to shift as well as it can. Not long ago a conspiracy was discovered and traced to this force to carry off a rich Turk, who lives within ten minutes of the residence of the British Consul-General.

I understand that the "Cygnet" is now at Salonica. It will be a question whether a man-of-war should not remain in the neighbourhood for some little time, and I think it is a matter for consideration whether, in view of the agitation and the momentary weakening of the authority of the Government which may be produced in several quarters on the coasts of Thessaly and Macedonia during the evacuation of the former province by the Turkish troops, it may not be advisable to keep even a larger man-of-war within reach.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 23.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May 1, 1881.*

THE inclosed extract from a letter from my correspondent at Serres confirms the information which I reported in my despatch of the 23rd ultimo on the subject of the revival of brigandage in that sandjak.

The "Salonica Gazette" of the 28th ultimo also publishes the substance of an official telegram from the Governor of Serres, reporting to the authorities here that

the Circassian, Jussuf Agha, Captain of Police, and his detachment composed of ten men, were surprised and all killed by the brigands, about 100 in number, under the leadership of Kukulis, who recently crossed over from Bulgaria.

A further telegram from the Governor of Serres has been received by the Pasha of Salonica, stating that the troops who were subsequently sent in pursuit attacked Kukulis and killed twenty-one men of his band.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Serres.

(Extract.) *April 22, 1881.*

BRIGANDAGE again is on the alert, and now that the trees and bushes are becoming leafy and the warm weather is propitious, unless the authorities take active and stringent measures it is feared this scourge will again revive.

Lately a Circassian, Jussuf Agha, who was appointed last summer to chase the brigands, was informed that the Bulgarian villagers secreted 2,000 sheep to avoid paying the "agnam" (sheep tax). Jussuf Agha took his party with him, consisting of nine Circassians and two Albanians, to proceed to the spot. On the way, some two or three hours distance from Demir-hissar, near Krushevo, he and his party were waylaid, some say by the band of Kukulis, others by that of Zembil. The brigands kept under cover, and when Jussuf Agha's party arrived he was attacked suddenly and killed, and all his men besides. The corpse of Jussuf Agha was decapitated, and his head carried away as a trophy. Troops were sent in pursuit, and a small engagement took place at Lower Vrondu: the result is not known.

It is rumoured here that in the district of Cassandra a Turkish Bey was kidnapped, and, moreover, an Englishman, Mr. Suter, who had troops with him, and that a heavy ransom is demanded from the latter.

No. 24.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 13.)

My Lord, *Scutari, May 3, 1881.*

IN Dervish Pasha's Proclamation to the Ghegs, or Northern Albanians, issued in the early part of last month, when the General was about to commence his operations in the Kossovo Vilayet, and which has probably been already communicated to your Lordship by Mr. Goschen, it will be observed that the onus of the disaffected condition of the country is entirely and repeatedly placed on intrigues and instigations from abroad.

I now learn that Dervish Pasha, in telegraphing his instructions for the arrest of Abdul Bey Phrassari to the different authorities in Albania, was careful to mention that the Bey was endeavouring to escape to England, a matter which, if true, need not have been published to ignorant subordinates.

I also understand that, when I was in Montenegro, pending the settlement of the Dulcigno question, the Turkish General carefully circulated the report in Scutari that I was the chief instigator of Albanian troubles, and that, consequently, the Porte would object to my return to this post.

From the above and other similar facts, I think it right to point out, that if the Turkish Government countenances the inconsiderate and groundless accusations of its High Commissioner, it is only preparing for itself another pitfall, at a moment when it is emerging with such labour from difficulties really having their sole origin in itself.

I have so frequently had the honour to report to your Lordship on the birth and progress of the Albanian League, and foreshadowed the present outcome, that I will merely here state categorically that Hussein and Nazif Pashas, Turkish Valis, and not foreigners, formed the League out of clerks and Notables in Ottoman employ, who were quite beyond the influence of strangers.

Dervish Pasha, too, before launching his accusations against foreigners, could easily have ascertained that none had been allowed to remain in the disaffected districts. The Consuls had been forced to retire from Prisrend; the Austrian Dragoman had been murdered there by the retainers of the League; Slav schoolmasters and priests had been executed and tortured; and the supremacy, in all cases, of the Shiriat, or Moslem law, had been re-established.

Such proceedings hardly support his theory of foreign machinations, although they resemble much the working of Mussulman fanaticism, of which Dervish Pasha has never been known to constitute himself an opponent; and his present accusations, I think, are eminently calculated to produce, under the auspices of the Ottoman provincial authorities, a hostile feeling against foreigners, and to develop into acts which can only again plunge the Porte into difficulties with the Powers.

If Mr. Goschen should attach any value to this impression, I would strongly urge that the Turkish Government should be firmly made to understand that its authorities will not be allowed to escape from the supervision permitted by the Treaty of Berlin, and the best way to counteract discontent in Albania is by endeavouring to raise it to the level, in all particulars, of the countries which adjoin it, and not to foster ill-will towards foreign Governments and their Agents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 25.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

My Lord, *Scutari, May 10, 1881.*

From certain communications which have been lately passing between the Porte and Hadji Osman Pasha, the Roman Catholics of Scutari fear that an attempt is about to be made to accuse them of plotting against the existing state of things, and to secure the return from Constantinople of the Mirdite Chief, Prenck Bib Doda.

There can be no doubt that the Christian, and even Mussulman, Albanians would be greatly pleased by the introduction of reforms in the administration of the province, and it is true that within the last ten days a mass meeting of the mountain tribes was held near Alessio to discuss their present state of abandonment by the Government, whereby they are exposed to oppressions and exactions of the lawless; but it is also certain that no intention exists of provoking anew the anger of the Turkish Government, and that at a moment when Dervish Pasha has further proved his capacity of dealing with the most powerful of Albanian organizations.

However, to forestall the attack which the Roman Catholics believed Hadji Osman Pasha was preparing against them, they determined to send a telegraphic assurance of their fidelity to Constantinople, but, before doing so, a deputation was sent to inform me of their intention.

As I have always found the Vali much disposed to take into consideration the advice I occasionally offer him, I suggested that the Roman Catholic community should defer exculpating itself with the Porte until I had ascertained whether it was not possible to come to an understanding with the Pasha, and I am glad to say that I believe I have opened a means for a complete understanding, for the moment at all events, between the two parties.

I think it, however, right to report to your Lordship that I have observed the existence of a considerable fear on the part of the Turkish authorities that the native Christians are being influenced, either by the Austrian or French Consuls here, into attempting to oblige the Porte to name Prenck Bib Doda to a high official position in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 26.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May 10, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the house of M. Hadji Zaphiri, in Ghevgheli, a township on the Salonica Railway, and about 45 miles from here, was attacked on Thursday night last, the 5th instant, by a band of more than sixty brigands, composed of Tosca Albanians, most of whom recently deserted, it is said, from the "Muvakat" (temporary) police, which was organized under the administration of the late Governor-General of Salonica, Abédine Pasha.

M. Zaphiri and his son made a most gallant and determined resistance, and succeeded in beating off their assailants.

An account of the occurrence is given in the inclosed translated copy of a letter which the British subject, Mr. James Rogotti, has received from M. Zaphiri's son, and communicated to me with a request that I should urge the authorities to dispatch troops to the spot and take energetic measures for the protection of M. Zaphiri.

M. Zaphiri is a native Greek under Turkish protection, but as he has been acting since January 1879 as Mr. Rogotti's agent in raising silkworms in Ghevgheli, I complied with the above request in an unofficial manner, having regard to his Turkish nationality.

The new Military Governor, Lieutenant-General Salih Pasha, to whom I mentioned the matter, told me that having already received a telegraphic confirmation of the occurrence as described in the letter to Mr. Rogotti, he had made arrangements to dispatch by a special train 150 troops to Ghevgheli; and he also, at my suggestion, kindly promised to send a military doctor to attend to the wounds of M. Zaphiri.

Mr. Rogotti has since heard from Ghevgheli that the above measures have been carried out, and that detachments of troops have been sent in pursuit of the authors of the outrage.

Further official reports, received yesterday by Salih Pasha, state that M. Zaphiri and his son, in their desperate fight with the brigands, killed no less than four and wounded six of them; and it appears that the brigands cut off and carried away with them the heads of their killed, for four headless corpses were discovered in a ravine a short distance from Ghevgheli.

My Austrian colleague has also addressed a representation to the local authorities, urging them to provide efficient protection to several Austrian subjects who are established at Ghevgheli in connection with the Salonica Railway.

It is with regret that I have to bring under the notice of your Lordship the perpetration of another serious act of brigandage in the district of Cassandra. On Saturday last, the 7th instant, a band of twenty-five Greek brigands attacked, in open day, Trohanlides, a small Turkish village not very far from Mr. Rogotti's estate called Sedhes, and about four hours from Salonica. After pillaging all the houses, twelve in number, the brigands carried off to the mountains ten of the Mahommedan villagers (seven men and three women).

Lieutenant-General Salih Pasha, who arrived here as Military Governor about a fortnight ago, is vigilant, and trying to do his duty in affording protection to the inhabitants. In conversing with him on the subject, he appeared to me to fully recognize the grave nature of the situation, and to be of opinion that it requires special and separate treatment.

I believe he has recommended the Porte to disarm and send to their homes under military escort the Albanian "Muvakat" (temporary) police, and replace them by a gendarmerie, to be organized on the same footing as the corps under Colonel Blunt in the Vilayet of Adrianople; and I understood him to say that he has suggested to the Porte that captured brigands should be visited with the extreme penalty of the law.

The numerous highwaymen and murderers who have been apprehended within the last four years have received lenient treatment from the local authorities, and it is a fact that within the same period no capital punishment has been witnessed in Macedonia.

With regard to the Albanian temporary police, I adverted in October last to the general feeling prevalent against them. I now hear that Salih Pasha, since he assumed the command in Macedonia, has received and forwarded to the Porte

no less than thirty-two Petitions from Christian and Turkish villages in the interior, complaining of the misconduct of these Albanians, and praying his Excellency to recall them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 26.

M. N. Hadji Zaphiri to Mr. J. Rogotti.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Gheyheli, May 6, 1881.*

YOUR letters of the 20th and 22nd ultimo duly reached me, and at my father's request I answer you and announce to you the event that occurred in our family last night, and of which you have probably been already informed. Dreadful indeed it was, and thanks to God Almighty who gave us strength to get through the conflict. You of course know that we are in the habit of shutting the courtyard doors at about sunset. We accordingly did so yesterday evening. One of our servants had received orders to light a fire in the silkworm nursery, which is detached from our house, in order to keep an equal temperature. The other was occupied in cutting leaves for feeding the worms. Whilst so employed one of the servants was seized by five or six brigands, who tried to learn from them where we were, whilst other brigands tried to open the courtyard door facing the new street.

It was exactly 9 o'clock P.M. My father, as usual, had stretched himself on the sofa and was taking his habitual nap, and I was sitting in the room. Then the other servant, hearing his comrade's cries, came to inform us of what was going on. What were we to do? We were at first thunderstruck, but encouraging ourselves mutually, we arranged that my wife and children should remain in the lower apartment and we in the upper one. My father and I took a Martini each with abundant ammunition. The brigands who came in at the door facing the new street gave the signal of their entrance into the courtyard by discharging their fire-arms, and then managed to open the door facing the old street for the others to come in. They all entered, firing at intervals and trying by means of hatchets to break open the door leading into the small courtyard of our house, but failing in their endeavours, two of them managed to get over the wall into this courtyard and open the door. We fired at them from the windows above, and we were answered from all sides by upwards of a hundred shots, for not only the two streets were crowded with them but our house was surrounded, and in every corner there were brigands occupying an advantageous position. When they got into the courtyard they fired at us from below, and some with hatchets were trying to break open the door of the house. What could two men do against such a number of enemies? Notwithstanding this, Divine Providence came to our help, and I heard my father's voice saying, "Courage! don't despair, God will not abandon you, fire away!" And we kept on firing at them. They at last burst open the door and began rushing upstairs, and would have taken us had it not been for our active firing, which they evidently felt, for they made a sudden retreat with shouts and cries, followed immediately afterwards by redoubled firing from inside and outside. What a dreadful sight it was! The shots whizzing through the air, the streets and courtyard lighted up, the window frames and panes of glass all broken, the floor and roof as full of holes as a sieve, and my father, mother, wife, in the smoke and fire. Then I confess we began to despair, and my father, stooping to pick up his cartridges that had fallen on a lower step, was wounded by two shots fired by the brigands from below. The latter at once made a ferocious rush up the staircase, but were again repulsed by me with my Martini and my father with his yataghan. Thus with the Almighty's help we managed to get rid of them after two hours' desperate fighting.

A quarter of an hour later we sent for the doctor. A few minutes after his arrival we again heard firing from the new street, but at last we were left in peace, and shutting the doors the doctor proceeded to examine my father's wounds, which he declared not to be dangerous, the one being a small one on his foot, and the other one a little below his right shoulder. At daybreak, when we went down into the courtyard, we found in front of the door a hatchet, two ropes, two coats, a fez, a bag containing provisions, and three letters, the copies of which we gave to the Mulazim, who sent them to the Kaimakam. The street and courtyard were

covered with empty cartridges. The railway engineer wrote to ask for troops for the security of this place. The following morning the Mulazim gave arms to upwards of thirty Turks and Christians to keep watch all night; he also sent us six Government rifles with ammunition.

Do all you can to get the authorities to send troops to protect us from further molestation.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) N. HADJI ZAPHIRI.

No. 27.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May 10, 1881.*

IN conformity with your Lordship's telegraphic instruction of the 30th ultimo with reference to Mr. Juda's case, which I reported to your Lordship in my despatch of the 18th idem., I have informed Mr. Juda, and other British subjects similarly situated, that if they visit or remain in districts threatened by brigands they will do so at their own risk, as Her Majesty's Government cannot undertake to secure their safety by ransoming them or by other means should they be captured.

The feeling of alarm and insecurity felt by the inhabitants in town and country is daily increasing. I inclose copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Alfred Abbott, and of one from Mr. James Rogotti, both British subjects established at Salonica, and owning extensive landed property in the interior.

I have warned these gentlemen in the sense of your Lordship's instruction above referred to; and with reference to Mr. Rogotti's property at Neohori, in district of Caraferia (Veria), his Excellency Salih Pasha has promised me to send back to that locality a sufficient military guard for its protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 28.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 14, 1881.*

I HAVE received, and carefully read, the copy of Mr. Kirby Green's despatch of the 3rd May, addressed to your Lordship.

Mr. Kirby Green says at the conclusion of that despatch that if I should attach any value to the impressions to which he gives expression with reference to the action of the Turkish authorities, he would strongly urge that the Turkish Government should be firmly made to understand that its authorities will not be allowed to escape from the supervision permitted by the Treaty of Berlin, and that the best way to counteract discontent in Albania is by endeavouring to raise it to the level in all particulars of the countries which adjoin it, and not to foster ill-will towards foreign Governments and their Agents.

Mr. Kirby Green states in another portion of his despatch that he had foreshadowed the present outcome of the birth and progress of the Albanian League.

While I have at all times rendered full justice to the energy and intelligence of Mr. Kirby Green, I am bound to state that I have not shared the opinions he has constantly put forward with reference to the Albanian movement. He has, in my judgment, failed to recognize the strong national tendencies which have been developed, and has been at too much pains to show that the League was due to no national sentiment whatever, but simply to Palace machinations.

While it is certain that the Palace clique at Constantinople has at times played a very dangerous game as regards the Albanian League, I have, from the first, been under the impression that a feeling of Albanian nationality existed, and must be taken into consideration as a powerful factor in the present crisis, differing from the view of Mr. Kirby Green, that if the word were only given from Constantinople all would be well.

With reference to Mr. Kirby Green's view, that the Porte should be made firmly to understand that its authorities will not be allowed to escape from the supervision permitted by the Treaty of Berlin, I fail to understand to what Articles reference is made. It was stipulated that reforms should be introduced on the recommendation ("avis") of a European Commission, but no supervision was, so far as I can understand, permitted or even asked for. Such remonstrances as Mr. Kirby Green desires me to make would be entirely futile.

For my own part, as your Lordship is aware, I have considered it politically inexpedient that the Representative of Her Majesty's Government at Scutari should have been so constantly in communication with the Albanian Chiefs. It is possible that the Agents of other Governments have pursued a similar course, and, if so, it is not surprising, though it is most unjust, that the action of foreigners should be put forward by Dervish Pasha as having encouraged the Albanians.

It cannot be forgotten that a plan for reconciling the Albanians to the cessions of Dulcigno by promises of reforms, attractive to the Albanians, but distasteful to the Porte, at one time formed a portion of the European programme.

Reforms should be urged in the strongest manner on the Turkish Government; but, to my mind, any remonstrance against the Proclamation of Dervish Pasha and similar documents would be of no practical utility whatever, while no such supervision over the affairs of Albania as is suggested by Mr. Kirby Green can be claimed by Treaty or be justified by expediency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 29.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Plunkett.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, May* 30, 1881.

PURSUIT of numerous brigands in district of Cassandra effected energetically and successfully by Military Governor, Salih Pasha. Since 25th instant twenty-three brigands destroyed. Their heads will be exposed to-day for identification. Her Majesty's ship "Cygnet" leaves this afternoon for Scio and Smyrna.

No. 30.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 17.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June* 6, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the subject of brigandage in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Plunkett.

Sir, *Salonica, June* 2, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translated copy of a letter, purporting to be from six brigand chiefs in Mount Olympus, and which was left at this Consulate-General during my recent journey to the coast of Cassandra.

My Austrian, French, Italian, and Russian colleagues have each received a similar letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Letter from Brigand Chiefs in Mount Olympus to Foreign Consuls in Salonica.

(Traduction.) [*No date.*]

LES Soussignés, Chefs de corps et Capitaines, croient de leur devoir de vous exposer ce qui suit :—

Il y a trois ans que les habitants de l'Épire, de la Thessalie, et de la Macédoine se sont révoltés, ne pouvant plus supporter les injustices des Turcs tendant à la ruine complète des Chrétiens. Nous croyons inutile de les raconter parce qu'elles sont déjà connues de tous les Gouvernements et du monde civilisé; l'Europe elle-même, aujourd'hui encore, travaille inutilement à remettre l'ordre dans l'Empire Ottoman.

Les Puissances intervinrent, promettant aux insurgés que, s'ils déposaient les armes, leur vie, leur honneur, et leurs biens seraient en sûreté, et qu'il serait tenu compte de leurs droits. On déposa, en effet, les armes, mais les insurgés qui avaient fait leur soumission devinrent les victimes des autorités Ottomanes, civiles et militaires, qui se firent un devoir de les persécuter de toutes les manières par l'emprisonnement, la bastonnade, les tourments, et les exactions, et ce ne fut pas seulement les révoltés qui avaient déposé les armes, qui furent en butte à ces persécutions, mais leurs parents et leurs amis, auxquels, restés tranquilles, on n'avait rien à reprocher. Il est ainsi devenu évident que les promesses faites par les Turcs n'étaient que fraude et fourberie, tant à l'égard des habitants révoltés qu'à l'égard de l'Europe.

De là vient que, ayant sous les yeux l'exemple de nos frères Chrétiens, nous avons cru devoir garder les armes et demeurer dans les montagnes, afin de protéger notre vie, préférant s'il fallait mourir, succomber honorablement, les armes à la main, plutôt que de languir dans les tourments et les prisons.

On nous accuse, et nous flétrit du nom d'assassins, &c.; aussi venons-nous faire en peu de mots appel à votre justice! Nous sommes des "Klephtes" dans les montagnes, et voici ce qu'on a à nous reprocher. Nous mettons à contribution ceux qui ont les moyens et qui lancent à notre poursuite les autorités civiles et militaires, nous tuons ceux qui nous trahissent, et ceux-ci sont la cause que plusieurs innocents périssent aussi. Nous ne faisons pas de mal aux autres; nous prenons du pain, mais nous le payons pour que les pauvres n'en souffrent pas. Quant aux Gouverneurs Ottomans, aux fonctionnaires civils et militaires, ils ont, dans leur rage, miné, abîmé d'exactions, tourmenté et imprisonné injustement les habitants, déshonoré les femmes. Quelle différence y a-t-il donc entre le Klephte et le Gouvernement de l'Empire Ottoman? Si vous y regardez de près et impartialement vous verrez que cette différence est très grande, et qu'elle est comme 1 à 100. Il y a eu parmi nous un seul capitaine qui avait commis des injustices et des infamies, et pour cette raison nous l'avons mis à mort. Sachez, en outre, que nul d'entre nous n'a le désir de mener la vie de brigand; mais que pouvons-nous faire? Toutes les fois que nous sommes entrés en négociations pour nous rendre, et que nous avons prêté foi aux promesses des autorités, on nous a trompés et fait périr, comme vous le savez déjà, et c'est à celles-ci, paraît-il, qu'il faut l'attribuer, parce qu'elles ont sans doute intérêt à ce que le brigandage subsiste, afin de boire et de manger, et d'opprimer les malheureux paysans. Ce n'est donc pas nous, vous le voyez, qui sommes la cause du malheureux état de choses, et nous n'avons plus qu'à choisir entre deux parties : ou bien nous rendre, avec la certitude que nous serons pendus ou jetés en prison, pour y mourir, ainsi qu'il est arrivé à tant d'autres après leur soumission; ou, au contraire, rester en armes et mourir avec honneur, en nous défendant. Et si, jusqu'ici, nous n'avons pas fait usage de nos armes contre les officiers et les soldats, nous ne garderons pas à l'avenir cette mesure, et nous leur donnerons la chasse, ainsi qu'ils nous la donnent à nous-mêmes, tirant avantage de la réserve que nous nous imposions.

Sachez, en outre, que cette année, au mois d'Avril, plus de 200 hommes se sont insurgés, par suite de l'oppression et des injustes persécutions qu'ils ne pouvaient plus supporter, et qui leur ont fait considérer le séjour des montagnes comme le seul asile qui leur restât. Dieu sait quand les paysans demeurés dans les villages qui entourent l'Olympe verront la fin de leurs maux.

Si vous daignez le faire, nous vous supplions d'intervenir, et ainsi vous rendrez un grand service aussi bien au Gouvernement Ottoman qu'au peuple opprimé. Nous sommes prêts à obéir à vos ordres. Nous envoyons une lettre semblable à

vos collègues, MM. les Consuls de Thessalonique. Sachez aussi ceci, que, quels que soient vos ordres, nous nous y conformerons, c'est-à-dire que, dût le Gouvernement Ottoman prendre jusqu'à notre vie, nous nous tiendrons pour satisfaits, parce que ce ne seront point les Turcs, mais les Puissances Européennes qui nous l'auront ôtée.

Nous ne voulons pas vous importuner davantage, et nous vous saluons avec respect.

Les Capitaines,
(Signé) ALBANASE S. SPANOS.
CHRISTOS DAVELIS.
T. KAMANKOS.
GEORGE AGRAPHIOTIS.
CHRISTOS KLITCHAKOS.
JEAN SAPPOS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 30.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Plunkett.

Sir, *Salonica, June 4*, 1881.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 30th ultimo, announcing the destruction of twenty-three brigands in the district of Cassandra, I have the honour to report that these brigands belonged to the band of "Captan" Vassili, which was composed of twenty-seven individuals, and which perpetrated numerous outrages in Macedonia. From the district of Cassandra alone they kidnapped, within the last two months, no less than fifteen hostages (twelve Mahommedans and three Christians); and when the troops suddenly attacked the band, which was concealed in Mount Hortiatch, three hours distance from Salonica, they had the satisfaction to rescue five Mahommedan captives. Three of the brigands were captured alive, one of them a Hellene; and the latter has made important disclosures to the authorities respecting parties at Salonica and other places who, for a long time, have been suspected of supporting brigandage in Macedonia. The chief of the band, "Captan" Vassili, is still at large, but as he was wounded during the late encounter with the troops the authorities hope to catch him also.

None of the above brigands belong to the bands which captured Mr. Suter, and, so far, the authorities have not got any clue as to their whereabouts.

I strongly suspect that these bands, after receiving Mr. Suter's ransom, dispersed, and concealed themselves in the villages, from where they will endeavour to effect their escape either to Greece or Bulgaria.

The energetic measures adopted by Salih Pasha, and the total destruction of Vassili's numerous band in such close proximity to this town, have produced a very good effect on, and inspired confidence in, the population; and it is earnestly hoped, now that the Frontier Convention has been accepted by Turkey and Greece, that public security in the interior will once more be re-established.

While referring to brigandage, I should add that further serious outrages have occurred in the districts of Vodina, Caraferia, and Catterina, where the bands which were concealed during winter in Mount Olympus have once more commenced their operations.

I inclose copy of a letter from Mr. J. Rogotti, a British subject, giving an account of an attack made, towards the end of last month, on his farm at Neohori, in the district of Caraferia.

I have addressed an official representation of this case to the authorities.

Salih Pasha, who had already promised me to send troops to the spot, has informed me that, owing to the small number at his disposal, he could not, for the present, permanently station troops at outlying villages, as he required all the available force for continually scouring the districts infested by brigands.

He, however, has sent orders to the Military Commandant of Caraferia to give his best attention to the matter, with a view of preventing the brigands from injuring Mr. Rogotti's property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 30.

Mr. Rogotti to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Salonique, le 1er Juin*, 1881.

J'AI pris la liberté de vous envoyer hier soir une lettre de l'Intendant de mon Tchiflik Neohori, situé à Oroumlik, de laquelle il dérive que des brigands y sont entrés, qu'ils ont captivés trois villageois, et que sous menace de brûler toutes les moissons, ils exigent £ T. 200 de moi, 200 autres des villageois, et une autre somme à part pour la rançon des captifs.

En réitérant le contenu de mes requêtes adressées à l'autorité locale par votre entremise le 2 Avril et 20 Juillet, 1880, et le 9 Mai dernier, et sous réserve de tous mes droits, je vous prie, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien transmettre le double de ma présente à l'autorité locale compétente, afin que toutes les mesures nécessaires soient prises pour prévenir tout mal, et surtout que la garde des soldats qui y était auparavant, et qui fut enlevée depuis longtemps contre mes instances assidues soit rétablie, et en même temps de vouloir bien prêter vos bons offices efficaces aux fins requises.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) J. ROGOTTI.

No. 31.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June 14*, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a letter relative to a very serious act of brigandage which was perpetrated on the 27th ultimo in Livadia, a Vlach village in district of Yenidjé-Vardar, in Sandjak of Salonica.

The military authorities of Salonica continue their pursuit of the brigands in district of Cassandra.

Till now they have destroyed twenty-five brigands and captured nine; but, unfortunately, they have not yet succeeded in discovering the whereabouts of the bands that captured Mr. Suter.

In other parts of Macedonia, especially in the districts on this side of Mount Olympus, there has been no diminution of the evil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Extract from a Letter from Livadia, dated May 15 (27), 1881.

C'EST aujourd'hui au grand matin que les brigands sont entrés à Livadia, village de 450 maisons, et habités par des bergers Vlachs.

La bande était commandée par cinq Chefs: Panayotto Caloyero, George Tcharmis, Thanas Ganias, Maldjas, et Djamali. Les trois premiers sont Grecs, et les deux Albanais Turcs. Ils étaient en tout soixante-seize personnes, la moitié Chrétiens, et l'autre moitié Albanais Turcs.

Les brigands, après avoir tué le fils du principal berger Vretta, qui a voulu faire de résistance, réunirent tous les habitants dans une place publique, leur enlevèrent d'abord ce qu'ils portaient sur eux d'argent et de bijoux, ensuite ils dévalisèrent le village, ils emportèrent en fait d'or, d'argent, d'habits (entre autre 450 ceintures d'argent comme les portent les femmes) pour une valeur d'environ £ T. 7,000. Ce qu'ils chargèrent sur vingt-neuf chevaux.

Ensuite ils emmenèrent prisonniers, 5 hommes, 2 femmes, et 8 enfants (ceux-ci de 2 à 8 ans), pour lesquels ils demandent £ T. 19,500.

No. 32.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, June 14, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd April last, inclosing a communication from Sir Henry Elliot on the subject of a proposal (projected) to induce the Porte to extend to Macedonia (including Salonica and Useup) the operations of the Organic Statute, in consideration for a large annual tribute.

I have no reason to believe that this proposal has as yet been submitted in a definite form to the Porte, or been more than a mere suggestion; but that there is a strong and general longing on both sides of the Rhodope for its speedy accomplishment there can be no doubt.

In connection therewith, I beg leave to submit to your Lordship the accompanying statement, which, at my request, M. Gueshoff had drawn up for me on this subject.

M. Gueshoff is the President of the Permanent Committee, and has considerable influence in this province. His opinion on its present political situation or future development may be taken to represent those of the most sober and enlightened section of the community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Statement of the National Wishes on the subject of extending to Macedonia the Operation of the Organic Statute of Eastern Roumelia.

SINCE the conclusion of the Treaty of Berlin, the condition of Macedonia has not ceased to occupy the attention of the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia.

Alarmed at first by certain provisions of that Treaty which appeared to threaten their own position, they have since been reassured by the installation of a new Government, which has given them order and tranquillity. Their only fear now is, that the misgovernment of Macedonia and the sufferings of its inhabitants should lead to an insurrection there and a sympathetic movement in the neighbouring provinces, which would be used by the Turks as an excuse for occupying the Balkans. Now this the Bulgarians on both sides are determined to oppose to the utmost of their power.

The great danger to the peace of Eastern Europe lies in the intolerable misgovernment and cruel oppression which have made Macedonia for some months past the hotbed of intrigue and revolutionary disorder.

The present state of that unhappy province can no longer be amended by mere superficial reforms. Its condition is similar to that of Eastern Roumelia before the late war. On the one side, a hopelessly corrupt Administration, endeavouring to maintain its authority by violence, falsehood, and wrong; on the other, a people, maddened by suffering, retaliating with outrage, robbery, and murder. If, in the case of the latter province, the sole remedy was found to be self-government, there can be no doubt that for Macedonia likewise nothing short of this will suffice.

A year has passed since Sir Drummond Wolff wrote to Lord Granville that "the only hope of Turkey lies in such a complete decentralization as that which has been secured for Eastern Roumelia."* The curse of Turkey has been the Tanzimat, which substituted for local government—which could easily have been reformed and improved—a sham French centralization; provinces and districts are handed over to the protégés and minions of the Porte; from them there is no appeal but to their friends and patrons in the capital, and the people of the provinces are, as a rule, the victims of fanaticism, cynicism, or corruption, injurious equally to Turk and Christian.

. . . . "I believe that in the provisions of the Eastern Roumelian Statute are to be found the germs both of political and financial prosperity for the

* "Turkey No. 15 (1880)."

European provinces of Turkey, and also for the Empire itself. By assimilating, as far as possible, the remaining provinces of European Turkey to Eastern Roumelia, I believe government would be rendered easier, justice promoted, and equitable administration secured under the Sultan. Should the course of events bring the dynasty to an end in Europe, the inhabitants, secure in liberties already acquired, would with far more difficulty become the dupes or prey of foreign covetousness or ambition."

Since this was written, the great progress made by Eastern Roumelia, and the increasing impotence and inefficacy of Turkish rule in the provinces still unhappily subjected to it, should prove that the most likely means of delivering Macedonia from its present anarchy would be to assimilate it completely to Eastern Roumelia. The union of these two provinces would be an act of justice to its inhabitants, and an important step towards the peaceful solution of the Eastern question. Everything in Macedonia is in favour of such an union. Community of race, religion, language, and sentiment, which have made the provinces inseparable in the past, will continue to do so for the future.

According to statistics, based on Turkish poll-tax registers, the population of Macedonia* amounts to 1,863,382, of whom 1,257,385 are Christian Bulgarians, 463,837 Mussulmans, chiefly of Bulgarian race and language, and the remainder Greeks, Wallachs, Jews, &c.

The work of assimilating the two provinces is rendered less difficult from the intimacy of the relations which have always subsisted between them. Many Macedonians are employed at present in the public service of Eastern Roumelia, and serve in the provincial militia as officers and non-commissioned officers. This force would be, therefore, well qualified to act as a "corps d'occupation" during the reorganization of the Province of Macedonia until the new authorities were installed and the national militia organized.

Experience has shown that without such an armed occupation no decentralizing movement can be carried out in Turkey. If the Lebanon and Eastern Roumelia are now enjoying prosperity from their new system of government, it is because a foreign occupation enabled Europe to introduce it. The same measures will be necessary to avert from Macedonia the disorders and dangers attending a change of government, and the Eastern Roumelian militia—an Ottoman force—is best qualified to undertake this duty, and to aid in extending to the neighbouring province the provisions of the Organic Statute, which have worked so well here.

Under the government of Aleko Pasha—order at the same time being maintained by the constitutional force (which has established public security in this province), Macedonia could not fail to participate, at no remote period, in the security and prosperity of her sister province on this side of the Rhodope.

Philippopoli, June 10, 1881.

No. 33.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, June 19, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of my despatch of to-day and of its inclosure to Mr. Plunkett relating to the exile of five Christian merchants of Janina to Tripoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Plunkett.

Sir, *Prevesa, June 19, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a telegram which the Consuls at Janina dispatched to their respective Embassies at Constantinople on the 12th instant in connection with the arrest and subsequent exile of five Christian merchants

* Including Vilayets of Uskup and Salonica.

to Tripoli, and I very much regret that, owing to my having received at a very late hour yesterday evening Mr. Kypriotis' despatch accompanying the above telegram, I am prevented from forwarding to you a translation of it, but I shall not fail to do so by first opportunity.

I may, however, add that the sentence passed on the above five individuals seems to me an unnecessarily hard one, for they merely committed the offence of abusing, just as they were entering Janina, seven Greek soldiers who had deserted from the garrison at Corfu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

Telegram sent by Consuls at Janina to Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Le 11 Juin, 1881.

CINQ négociants Chrétiens ont été condamnés pour simple délit correctionnel quinze années travaux forcés à escompter à Tripoli et promenés dans la ville comme des malfaiteurs escortés par la troupe avec les placards portant leur condamnation; ils sont partis pour leur exile; impression et agitation parmi population Chrétienne est extrême car chacun considère ce jugement comme le commencement de persécutions contre Chrétiens. Officiers et troupes étant très excités; Corps Consulaire réuni après demandes inutiles auprès autorités a décidé télégraphier Ambassadeurs à Constantinople pour informer état esprits et demander leur intervention en faveur des Chrétiens.

Détails par prochain courrier.

No. 34.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received July 2.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, June 25*, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th instant, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translated copy of Mr. Kypriotis' despatch of the 13th instant, giving a detailed account of the proceedings in connection with the exile of five Christian merchants to whom allusion is made in the above-mentioned despatch. I have the honour to add that I forward by to-day's post the original translation to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Janina, June 13*, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that seven Greek soldiers arrived here Sunday last (5th instant). It happened, however, that as they were coming in they were met by a number of Christians, some of whom were so irritated that they began to abuse them.

Five Christian merchants were accordingly charged by a Turk before the Military Tribunals, which subjected them to a strict inquiry of having abused the Government. But this, according to accurate information that has been supplied to us, was not the case; the abuse was only directed to the deserters. In the meantime, it was rumoured that the Military Tribunals intended to take severe steps by way of making an example of them. To this rumour I gave full credence, because I was positively informed that the Military Commander and the officers about him were so exasperated by the happy solution of the Greek question, that they were looking out for an excuse to avenge themselves on the Christian population of Epirus, which on a former occasion had dared to demand annexation to Greece. And should

unfortunately this revengeful disposition which prevails among the higher officers spread to the lower classes of society, it is impossible to predict the consequences.

For humanity's sake I therefore called on the Vali on the 7th instant to ascertain how matters stood. His Excellency agreed with me as to the severity of the measures taken by the Military Courts, and promised to intercede in order to have the penalty mitigated. On the other hand, the Bishop, in the name of the Christian community, proceeded for the same purpose to the Military Commander, and a tranquillizing answer was given to him. But suddenly, on the 11th instant, and contrary to all assurances, the above five individuals were paraded along the streets, escorted by soldiers, and carrying on their breasts a placard with the following inscription in Greek and Turkish: "That, owing to their having abused the Government, they were condemned to penal servitude for fifteen years and transportation to Tripoli in Syria, and that this was to serve as a warning to others."

During the night they were lodged in the prisons inside the fort.

Stunned by such an unheard-of punishment, the relatives of the sufferers and a portion of the people flocked to the Consulates asking for help; they also implored the authorities, but in vain. The sentence had been pronounced, and very early next morning the victims were led away by forty mounted Circassians.

To the above five were added Dr. Tripouri, of Metzovo, and two other Christians.

At the request of the Greek Consul, who is the Doyen, we repaired to his house to consider the steps we were bound to take in the matter, and after consideration it was decided that each of us should telegraph to his Embassy at Constantinople all that had occurred, according to the inclosed form.

Not wishing to sever myself from the Consular Body in consequence of my not possessing a cypher, I begged the Italian Consul to have Her Majesty's Embassy supplied by the Italian Ambassador with a copy of the telegram.

Before the meeting of the Consular Body took place, the French and Italian Consuls called on the Vali to express their regret for the occurrence, and begged him to have their journey stopped at Metzovo until the arrival of instructions from Constantinople. The Vali promised that he would consult the Military Commander on the subject, and then communicate the result to all the Consuls. Three hours later he informed us that this could not be done. We then held the above meeting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 35.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June 29*, 1881.

THE following are the results of the pursuit which was organized by the military authorities of Salonica against the brigands in the district of Cassandra: 25 were killed, 18 captured, and 5 surrendered themselves. Twenty-one villagers have been apprehended upon strong suspicion of harbouring and otherwise assisting these outlaws.

During the pursuit six hostages succeeded in effecting their escape from the hands of their captors.

Of the brigands who carried off Mr. Suter only one has been captured; the rest have escaped to Mount Olympus.

The district of Cassandra is now considered free from brigandage, and the manner in which the Ferik Selami Pasha personally conducted the pursuit, under the orders of Safik Pasha, has given confidence to the inhabitants and calmed their alarm and disquietude; and at present high and low in the district are engaged in gathering the harvest, which this year is above the average in quantity and quality.

In the meantime, the numerous bands of brigands in other parts of the Vilayet of Salonica, more particularly in the districts of Catterina, Caraferia, Vodina, Yenidjeh-Vardar, Doviau, and Tikvesh, have been productive of great mischief within the last three weeks.

The inclosed translated extract from the local Greek newspaper, the "Pharos of Macedonia," late the "Ermis," gives some account of the most recent outrages.

I am, however, glad to say that Selami Pasha left this early yesterday morning for the above-named districts, for the purpose of organizing and conducting a general pursuit against the brigands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Enclosure in No. 35.

Extract from the "Pharos" of Macedonia.

(Translation.) *Salonica, June* 21, 1881.

IT is rumoured that the brigands who carried off Mr. Suter have managed to escape! Supposing this to be true, we can confidently assert that throughout the district of Cassandra brigandage may be considered exterminated. But it exists elsewhere, notably near Olympus, and not a day passes but some atrocious deed is committed.

Near Vromeri, at an hour's distance from Catterina, the band of Arghiri Cokino captured Captain Stavro, who went there to ship some firewood, two farm stewards, Vassil and Apostolos, and a clerk of the timber merchant, Riza Effendi. The latter were liberated twenty-four hours later, but not the poor Captain.

It is not known which band carried off six missing Christians.

A priest was killed very near Caraferia; but the most atrocious of all the outrages is the massacre of five carriers going from Gratzko to Perlepé by a Turko-Albanian band. No details of this crime have as yet reached us, but it is supposed to be an act of revenge, as the beasts and merchandize of the poor carriers were left intact. We shall not fail to inform our readers as soon as we get positive information.

No. 36.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 10.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 4, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a telegram addressed by the Italian Vice-Consul at Janina to Count Corti, which his Excellency communicated to me, reporting the condemnation of certain Christian merchants at Janina to hard labour on what were considered insufficient grounds.

I caused inquiries to be made as to the truth of the statements conveyed in this telegram, and Assim Pasha gave Sir A. Sandison to understand that the sentence passed upon these persons (six in number) was not at all from any desire to inflict severe punishment on them. His Excellency explained that they had left Janina in order to serve as volunteers in the Greek army, from which they had deserted, against the Turks, and that their return had caused much excitement among the Turkish and Albanian population of the town, which the local authorities felt anxious to calm at a critical moment.

His Excellency stated that as soon as the Sublime Porte was in possession of the documents connected with the case, it was intended to diminish considerably, and perhaps annul altogether, the term of punishment to which these individuals were sentenced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 36.

The Italian Consul at Janina to Count Corti.

(Télégraphique.) *Le* 12 *Juin*, 1881, 5·10 P.M.

CINQ négociants Chrétiens ont été condamnés à quinze années de travaux forcés à escompter à Tripoli pour simple délit correctionnel et promenés hier dans la ville comme des malfaiteurs avec des placards portant leur condamnation.

Ils sont partis ce matin pour Verj (?). Impression et agitation parmi population Chrétienne est extrême, car chacun considère ce fait comme commencement persécution des Chrétiens. Les troupes très excités, les Consuls réunis après démarche inutile auprès autorités ont décidé télégraphier aux Ambassadeurs pour informer état esprits et demander leur intervention en faveur des victimes. Consul d'Angleterre prie de communiquer cette dépêche Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, n'ayant pas chiffrant. Détails prochain courrier.

No. 37.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1881.

MR. VICE-CONSUL BLAKENEY has forwarded to me a copy of Mr. Kypriotis' despatch to him of the 13th ultimo relative to the condemnation of five Christian merchants at Janina to fifteen years' penal servitude and transportation on a charge of having abused the Turkish Government.

I have to request your Excellency to convey to Mr. Kypriotis my approval of his proceedings, as reported in his despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 38.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 21.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July* 6, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my despatch of this date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the state of affairs in the Sandjak of Serres, and to the non-employment of Christians as collectors of the Government tithes in the Sandjak of Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, July* 6, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a letter from my correspondent at Serres relative to the state of affairs in that sandjak.

The account my correspondent gives of the satisfactory condition of the crops generally applies to all the districts in Macedonia.

The yield of the wheat and barley crops in particular is considered above the average in quantity and quality, and the corn merchants at this place are already preparing to lay in large stocks of the same for speculation on foreign account.

As regards the conduct of the Turkish provincial authorities in connection with their appointments of tithe collectors, I regret to say that they are pursuing in this matter the same exclusive policy they carried out last year.

Of 500 appointments of tithe collectors which they have made in the Sandjak of Salonica alone, 489 are Mahommedan and 11 non-Mahommedan.

The reason they give for this almost wholesale elimination of the Christian element from the above service is that the Greek and other non-Mahommedan candidates have not shown a competent knowledge of the Turkish language.

But this rule has not affected Mahommedans similarly disqualified, for I am assured that several Albanians have been selected who have no knowledge whatever of the Turkish language.

This matter has been taken up by the Greek Archbishop of Salonica, and given rise to some discussion between his Eminence and the Governor-General.

The "Pharos of Macedonia" has also taken notice of it in a paragraph, of which the inclosed is a translation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Serres.

(Extract.) *July* 1, 1881.

THE state of the country is on the whole quiet.

Prices of provisions, which is of the utmost importance in this district, are 50 per cent. cheaper compared to last year. The grain crops are satisfactorily abundant.

We are for the present free from incursions of brigands, but owing to isolated cases of violence which go unpunished a sense of insecurity is still felt.

The Local Government is preparing to begin the collection of the tithes. It will collect them for its own account by persons specially appointed and salaried for this purpose. The Turks at first wanted to appoint only Mussulmans to accomplish this duty, whereupon the Christian "Azas" (members of the local Councils) protested.

The Turks then agreed to appoint also Christians who could read and write Turkish. As all the Christians are ignorant of this language, the Christian "Azas" refused to comply with this condition. The Turks insisted, and the Christian "Azas" sent in their resignations, whereupon a compromise was agreed upon, half of the officials to be Turks and the rest Christian, with a small number of Jews. I am now told the Turks put such difficulties regarding the security required from the Christians, that many of the latter, not being able to find the required amount, have remained disappointed, so that the Turks have, after all, the majority of the appointments.

Inclosure 3 in No. 38.

Extract from the "Pharos" of July 2, 1881.

(Traduction.)

NOUS apprenons, sans être à même d'affirmer la nouvelle, que les huit Chrétiens qui, sur les instances de notre Métropolitain, avait été nommés à Cassandra comme Inspecteurs des Dîmes, arrivés sur les lieux avec l'ordre ("emirnameh") du Gouverneur-Général pour prendre possession de leurs postes, ont été remerciés.

Le Caïmacan leur a déclaré que leurs postes étaient déjà occupés par des Musulmans. Alors pourquoi ont-ils été envoyés là? Serait-ce pour que ces pauvres gens de famille se jettent dans des dépenses, où ignorait-on ici le fait?

Si ce qui précède est regrettable, par contre, la conduite du Mutessarif de Serres, Moustapha Emin Bey, en cette occasion, est des plus digne. Il a été d'une opinion contraire, et a protesté contre l'interprétation de l'Article qui prescrit que les Inspecteurs des Dîmes doivent être des "Kiatibs" (Scribes).

L'Albanais, Nedim Bey, membre de la Commission des Dîmes dans notre ville, a, lui aussi, fait preuve d'un caractère très libéral. Il a soutenu, apprenons-nous, que cette mesure était contraire à l'esprit de concorde et de fraternité qui doit régner entre Musulmans et Chrétiens.

Nous félicitons Nedim Bey pour ses opinions libérales et pour les idées qu'il a exprimées, et qui démontrent une juste appréciation des choses et un patriotisme bien entendu.

No. 39.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July* 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a Report, with copies of its three inclosures, which Mr. Vice-Consul

Longworth has addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relativ to the state of brigandage in Thessaly, and to the representations he made to the local authorities on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

Vice-Consul Longworth to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Larissa, July* 6, 1881.

I RECEIVED on the 25th ultimo, at 8 A.M., your Excellency's telegram in cypher, the substance of which was as follows:—

"*Therapia, June* 24, 1881.

"I have been requested by Earl Granville to make known to British subjects who may now be residing, or who may hereafter take up their abode, in any of the provinces of the Turkish Empire where brigandage prevails, that they do so at their own risk, and that Her Majesty's Government cannot in future undertake to make pecuniary advances to ransom them from the hands of brigands, in the event of their being captured, or relieve them from the danger they may incur from a residence in Turkish territory. Take steps you may think necessary to warn British subjects.

"Instruct your Vice-Consuls."

It need scarcely be mentioned here what has already been made known by me in former despatches, that since April of last year I have been discountenancing British subjects from residing in any of the rural parts of the province, owing to the unsettled state of the country, and that I have been warning them that if they did so it would be at their own risk, as I could not hold myself responsible for their safety whilst in such localities.

The effect of this has been that a few of them quitted Thessaly, and the rest removed their abode to Volo, where the small British Colony has ever since concentrated itself. I have been exerting hence all my influence to induce the Turkish authorities to render that place at least as free as possible from the evils of brigandage and burglary; and an exceptional security has consequently been existing in that town and vicinity, arising from an efficacious combination of night patrols, day sentries, and Christian guards.

On the receipt of your Excellency's telegram, therefore, I only thought it necessary to transmit a certified copy of it to my Agent in that town, with directions to notify its contents to British subjects coming to or residing at Volo, without the matter being made known to the Turkish authorities, for fear it should make them indifferent to the safety of British life and property.

I have further to report that a large number of letters received from my correspondents and other persons depict in vivid colours a fearful development of brigandage in Thessaly. There is little doubt that, owing to political prospects, the Ottoman troops have relaxed their efforts; that the Turkish gendarmerie acts in concert with robbers; that Greek subjects of rapacious disposition cross the border on predatory expeditions; that some of the Hellenic frontier officials connive and share in the booty of such exploits; and that innumerable bandits, professional and non-professional, together with other disreputable characters, are availing themselves of this last chance to increase their ill-gotten gains among the unhappy Thessalians.

Few villages are exempt from molestation, and large sums are being obtained, either by threatening to kill the cattle and burn the crops, or by stopping all ingress to or egress from the villages. Men have been killed, women violated, travellers rifled, money extorted, and other excesses committed to such an extent that people are in a state of dismay, as indicated by a letter from the Archbishop of Platamona, a translation of which in French I inclose for perusal.

Since the 20th ultimo I repeatedly called the attention of the authorities to this deplorable and alarming state of insecurity, and I endeavoured to persuade them to allow the inhabitants to arm in self-defence; but owing to military punctiliousness and nicety of honour my suggestion was not favourably received, and assurances

were given me instead that within three or four days I would hear of extraordinary promptitude and vigour displayed by the Imperial troops against these disturbers of public peace and order. The energetic measures contemplated and promised me verbally, however, were either abandoned or turned out inefficacious, for no beneficial effects from them were perceptible; and I consequently transmitted a note on the subject of brigandage to the civil and military Governors, a copy of which is herewith inclosed, together with the answer I received, dated respectively the 27th June and the 3rd July, 1881.

I should add that as regards the four cases of brigands killed and captured during June, contained in Halil Bey's and Redjeb Pasha's note, the first is an act of some Christian villagers, who had armed themselves without permit, and, had killed the two brigands three hours from Pharsala; the second and third cases have not come to my knowledge; while the fourth was a merely accidental encounter between the brigands and ten soldiers from Desreli, who, on their way to Ellassona, coming across the robbers, killed one of them and rescued four men and one woman, caught at the village of Lefterohori, an hour's distance from Ellassona. In fact, it is stated by my correspondent, who is usually careful and discreet in the wording of his letters, that the Commandant of the district, Major-General Hadji Ali Pasha, on being requested to move in this matter, positively refused, declaring his conviction that the captives had concerted with the brigands in order to disgrace the Imperial Ottoman troops!

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

The Bishop of Platamona to Vice-Consul Longworth.

(Traduction.)

Illustre, *Ambelakia, le 18 Juin*, 1881.

L'ÉTAT des Chrétiens de ma juridiction spirituelle est devenu déplorable et insupportable.

Si jusqu'à présent le brigandage était le terrible fléau d'Olympe et d'Ossa, on peut depuis un mois la considérer comme la peste destructive de ces pays. Je ne viens pas parler à votre illustre les scélérats que nous voyons être par intervalles commis pendant ces trois derniers ans, c'est parler de la destruction complète de ma paroisse.

Par tous ceux que nous voyons il paraît que les nombreuses bandes des brigands ont juré, au signal donné, de rendre pauvres tous les habitants de ces pays, de manière qu'il est bien triste d'entendre le récit de ceux qui continuent à avoir lieu.

Ce bourg même dans lequel je réside est depuis quinze jours assiégé par de diverses bandes, dont l'hardiesse est avancée jusqu'à se montrer sur les collines d'alentour et présentent nues leurs épées pour effrayer les habitants. Le village de Rapsani dont est bien connu le passé, parcourt le danger de voir assassinés tous ses habitants, si dans un délai fixé ne se hâte de mettre devant les pieds des brigands quelques centaines de livres. Crania, Pyrgetos, Nezeros, Laspohori, Nichterème, Aigani, Pourlia, Caryn, Scamnia et en un mot tous les villages de ma juridiction spirituelle sont aux prises avec la vie et la mort. Car on ne voit ici que les uns être pillés, les autres faits captifs, dépouillés, coupés les oreilles et assassinés par les brigands.

Il est bien difficile d'entretenir par curiosité, à calculer les Chrétiens qui jusqu'à présent sont tombés entre les mains de ces bandes terribles. On peut dire qu'au delà de cent personnes sont pour le moment tenues captives.

Nous avons outre cela à considérer les nombreuses lettres adressées en titre d'ordonnances par les brigands aux villages avec lesquelles menacent les villageois qu'ils vont brûler les récoltes s'ils ne se hâtent de leur envoyer des livres. Ils prétendent d'un village 1,000 livres, de l'autre 500, et d'un village qui ne contient que vingt familles ils ont la prétention de prendre 200 livres au moins.

Cet état de choses oblige les habitants riches si l'on peut en trouver ici et les appeler riches, ainsi que la classe de ceux qui à cause de leurs travaux sont obligés de se rendre aux bazars, de ne pas sortir de leurs villages. Excepté la classe des ouvriers qui sont obligés de sortir, mais qui souffrent ainsi tant de maux, parce que les brigands sont devenus si nombreux qu'ils se contentent quelquefois de 50 à 100

piastres d'un ouvrier. On dit que tous les brigands qui errent autour de ce pays-ci remonte au nombre de 1,000, et qu'il y a des personnes qui exercent cette profession non avec des armes, mais avec des bâtons. C'est ainsi l'état déplorable de ces pays, de sorte que la plupart des Chrétiens pensent quitter leur patrie.

En portant à la connaissance de votre Illustre cet état de notre pays, je crois que je remplis mon devoir, et je viens le prier, au nom des habitants tourmentés, de vouloir bien agir tout ce qui est bon pour leur délivrance.

Je suis, &c.
L'Archevêque de Platamona,
(Signé) AMBROSSIOS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 39.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Civil and Military Governors.

MR. LONGWORTH, Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Larisse et Volo, prie leurs Excellences le Gouverneur Halil Bey et le Maréchal Hydayet Pacha de prendre en considération l'état de brigandage en Thessalie.

Pour montrer le grave développement de ce mal, il veut bien tirer leur attention aux suivants cas flagrants qui viennent d'avoir lieu ces jours-ci: —

1. Le 1 (13) du mois courant dans le district de Trikala les bandes Albanaises d'Ali Stepertzi, de Souleiman, et de Tafil, ayant réuni leurs forces, se composant de soixante-dix à quatre-vingt brigands, sont entrés dans l'église de Kastania, et après avoir dévalisée l'assemblée, ils ont emporté sur le Mont Kosako dix-sept hommes et deux femmes, pour la délivrance desquels on demande une rançon de 13,000 livres.

2. Le 7 (19) du même mois une autre bande, composée de cinq Albanais et de deux Grecs, ont attrappé cinq individus à une heure de distance de Trikala.

3. Le 10 (22) du même mois encore, douze brigands, ayant pour chef Yanko Bulgaros, du village de Panteleimon, ont captivé au village de Mouhterem onze hommes et une fille, dont quatre avec la fille se sont délivrés. Pour le reste des prisonniers on demande une grande rançon.

4. Enfin le 11 (23) du mois courant, à Karabouroun, six heures loin d'ici, vingt-quatre personnes ont été faits prisonniers par une bande de quinze brigands Grecs, et dont les huit se trouvent encore entre leurs mains.

C'est superflu de faire mention des nombreux cas secondaires commis par les brigands: tels que des enlèvements de plusieurs individus, des différents excès, et des lettres écrites aux villages sous des menaces de brûler leurs récoltes et de tuer leurs animaux.

Mr. Longworth ne doute pas que leurs Excellences verront la nécessité de prendre des mesures promptes et énergiques contre cet état déplorable de choses. Les autorités Ottomanes et les troupes Impériales de 50,000 hommes éviteront ainsi d'être exposées aux blâmes d'indifférence pour la sécurité publique au moment que Sa Majesté le Sultan a cédé amicalement cette province au Royaume Grec.

Mr. Longworth désirerait aussi de persuader leurs Excellences de vouloir bien permettre aux villages Chrétiens et Musulmans de former à eux-mêmes des gardes, sur le plan adopté par les villages de Volo; à la garantie de leurs primats et aux dépens de leurs communautés, pour coopérer avec les troupes tout en étant reconnues comme telles par leurs autorités locales; vu que l'état actuel de la question politique le permet, et vu aussi bien que l'armée Impériale ne peut pas connaître si minutieusement que les indigènes la nature topographique du pays, et la manière dont le brigandage s'exerce et se soutient.

Larisse, le 15 (27) Juin, 1881.

Inclosure 4 in No. 39.

Halil Bey and Redjib Pasha to Vice-Consul Longworth.

HALIL BEY, Gouverneur de la Thessalie, et Redjeb Pacha, Commandant-en-chef *ad interim*, ont lu avec toute l'attention qu'elle mérite la note verbale de

Mr. Longworth, Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre, en date du 15 (27) courant, concernant l'état de brigandage en Thessalie.

Le Gouverneur Civil et le Commandant Militaire ont à peine besoin d'assurer à Mr. Longworth de l'importance qu'ils ont constamment attachée et qu'ils attachent toujours au maintien de l'ordre et de la sécurité à cet effet par toutes les autorités civiles et militaires.

Tous ceux qui suivent avec attention la marche du brigandage dans ce pays n'ignorent point qu'au temps de la récolte et à l'automne, des milliers de moissonneurs et de bergers, avec leurs troupeaux, venant des provinces voisines, les brigands profitent de ce moment et exercent leurs atrocités avec plus de hardiesse que d'ordinaire.

Or, les quatre cas relatés dans la susdite note, perpétrés pendant la saison que nous traversons, ne peuvent inspirer aucune inquiétude pour la sécurité publique, surtout en prenant aussi en considération les circonstances actuelles, et la protection dont un grand nombre de brigands ou leurs proches jouissent en Grèce. Ces cas perdent toute importance au point de vue des efforts faits par les autorités Impériales pour la répression du brigandage. Du reste, grâce aux mesures prises, il y a tout lieu d'espérer que de pareils cas ne se répèteront plus, ou deviendront beacoup moins fréquents.

Quant à l'autorisation à accorder aux villageois de porter les armes, et de poursuivre les brigands, une pareille mesure serait, à l'avis des Gouverneurs Civils et Militaires de la province, tout à fait inopportun, très difficile à prendre, et contraire au but désiré, qui est de protéger les villageois contre le brigandage sans les obliger d'abandonner leurs travaux, notamment pendant la moisson.

Les gardes-champêtres de Volo n'ont à surveiller que quelques jardins d'oliviers près des villages ou campent en nombre suffisant des troupes Impériales. Néanmoins, toutes les fois que les troupes de Sa Majesté le Sultan se mettent à la poursuite des brigands, elles se font accompagner de quelques gendarmes ou villageois leur servant de guide.

Redjeb Pacha et Halil Bey croient utile de transmettre ci-joint à Mr. Longworth, pour sa connaissance, une note contenant certains renseignements sur diverses récentes rencontres des soldats avec les brigands, et sur les brigands venant de la Grèce ou y ayant des relations.

Larisse, le 21 Juin (3 Juillet), 1881.

Le 3 Avril, le brigand Yani Spiro a été tué près d'Ellassona.

Le 5 Avril, les brigands Ilia et Dimitri, du village d'Ismola, ont été saisis.

Le 7 Avril, George Stata a été saisi près d'Armyros.

Le 16 Avril, des brigands ont fait soumission à Vellestino, et un villageois qui se trouvait entre leurs mains a été délivré.

Le 20 Avril, un brigand a fait sa soumission à Aghia.

Le 23 Avril, le chef de brigands Sali Tzal, et un des siens, ont été tués près du village Varderli.

Le 30 Avril, deux brigands nommés Nicoli, de Volo, et Nicoli, du village Kortele, ont été tués à Koshina, un autre blessé.

Le 3 Mai, un brigand de la bande du chef Zarka, a été tué à Podinista.

Le 3 Mai, un brigand a été saisi à Domoko.

Le 5 Mai, trois brigands saisis, et une fille entre leurs mains délivrée à Karditza.

Le 15 Mai, deux brigands soumissionnés, un individu entre leurs mains délivré à Ellassona.

Le 22 Mai, le brigand Dimo Momo, du village Verdekoucha, a été tué.

Le 22 Mai, un brigand tué à Tricalla.

Le 1er Juin, deux brigands tués près du village Kerghesli.

Le 4 Juin, un brigand de la bande de Naoum tué, et un saisi à Apalat.

Le 5 Juin, Aspassoul Zoula et un des siens tués près de Katerina.

Le 14 Juin, le Chef Zani Kaptan Arghiri, de Dranova, et trois des siens, blessés, et trois hommes et une femme délivrés de ses mains.

Les chefs des brigands, Zichi et Boula, qui tiennent entre leurs mains le nommé Constantin Kazaniko, d'une village d'Aghia, ont leurs femmes et enfants en Grèce.

Cinq bandes de brigands Hellènes sont sorties ces jours-ci de la Grèce à Domoko, et ont fait des prisonniers dans les villages Musulmans Hadji Emirler et Tchamach, et dans le village Chrétien Torchi. Ces brigands Hellènes attaquent plus cruellement les Musulmans, et se réfugient dans le territoire Grec lorsqu'ils sont poursuivis par les troupes Ottomanes.

No. 40.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July 20*, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a further despatch which Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth has addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of brigandage in Thessaly.

The military continue with earnestness their pursuit of brigandage in the Vilayet of Salonica: 7 brigands have been killed and 22 captured since the 1st instant.

In the district of Catterina no less than 50 brigands (all native Greeks) have surrendered themselves within the last fortnight.

Of those captured, 15 are Turks and 7 Greeks; and of the killed 5 belonged to Nicko's band, and some hope is entertained of the early capture of Nicko himself and the rest of his followers.

The authorities have also secured and placed in confinement at Salonica a large number of accomplices and harbourers of the numerous bands which have been devastating this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—I shall forward this despatch under flying seal to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens.

J. E. B.

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

Vice-Consul Longworth to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Larissa, July 13*, 1881.

I HAVE to transmit herewith a note I have this day received from the Civil Governor, Halil Bey, on the subject of brigandage in Thessaly.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to furnish your Excellency with some further details on the important brigand case, committed at Kastania, in the district of Tricalla.

On Sunday, the 12th instant, the three Albanian bands of robbers under Ali Stepetchi, Solyman, and Salit, mustering to eighty men, broke into the church of the village, completely rilled the congregation, and carried off as hostages to Mount Kosaka seventeen men and two women, for whose release they demand ransoms to the amount of £ T. 13,000. The notorious brigand chief, Davelli, hearing of this exploit, deemed it a religious duty to punish the Albanian marauders for this act of sacrilege. On the 3rd instant, therefore, and in the Aspropotamos region, a combat ensued between the two bands, composed of eighty Greek robbers under Davelli and eighty Albanian robbers under Stepetchi. The fight was fiercely kept up for several hours, and ended by eight being killed on the one side and twenty-three on the other.

The vanquished Albanians took to flight, and vented their feelings on their unfortunate captives. They chopped off the ears of some of them, and sent them to their relatives with a message that the heads would follow the ears if the demanded ransoms were not promptly paid. The victorious Greeks, on the other hand, proceeded to Frangovitza, and demanded of the village £ T. 600 as a reward for their deeds of valour in the cause of Christianity. But the inhabitants did not see the force of paying the claim, and instead of meeting the demand they alarmed the military station at Korpou, whence soldiers turned out in pursuit, and drove away the brigands from the neighbourhood.

The information I am receiving from along the frontier leads me to believe that the majority of the brigands of Hellenic nationality freely cross and recross the border on marauding expeditions, and that it is only the minority of them who are condemned criminals in Greece, with Government prices fixed on their heads. I learn, in fact, from Greek sources, that the fifty brigands infesting the Armyro district are all Hellenic subjects, with their families residing in the Greek Cantons of Pteleaton, Kremastio-larissis, and Phalaron, where the robbers themselves are on friendly and intimate terms with the Hellenic officials. The chief men among these brigands are Zissimpetos, Christo Yankos, Poulios, Thontidis, Zissis, Theodoron, Kourpetis, Sotiris Kotas, Kostas Kokinos, and Kontzihonas; while their principal accessories among the Hellenic functionaries are the Dimarchos of Sourbi, Yennios Skouras; the Dimarchos of Yardikion, Gheorgios Olympios; and the Dimarchos of Stylida, whose name I have not yet ascertained. Mr. Tzioti, the Greek Vice-Consul at Volo, paid a visit to Armyro in the middle of June, and hearing the complaints of the inhabitants against these individuals, promised to write to his Government on the subject; but hitherto no measures have been taken by the Hellenic authorities in the matter.

As regards this side of the frontier, in order that the Turkish authorities may not relapse into their recent state of indifference to public security, I have adopted the plan of drawing their attention to every act of brigandage perpetrated within this month. Up to now ten such acts have come to my knowledge, but eight of the number occurred before the 3rd July, which is the date of Halil Bey's and Redjeb Pasha's answer to my Memorandum of the 27th June, as your Lordship will perceive from the following brief summary of the cases in question:—

1. July 1.—A Greek Notable captured by Greek brigands in Agraphia; ransom demanded, £ T. 500.

2. July 1.—A Greek farmer captured by Greek brigands at Mesinikola, in Karditza district; ransom demanded, £ T. 300.

3. July 1.—A Greek sheep merchant captured by Greek brigands near Rassani in Derreli district: ransom demanded, £ T. 150.

4. July 1.—A Greek villager captured by Greek brigands at Gherpesti, in Karditza district.

5. July 1.—Two Greeks captured by Greek brigands at Konitza, in Ellassona district.

6. July 1.—A Greek farmer captured by Greek brigands near Onorikahi, in Domoko district.

7. July 2.—A Greek miller captured by Greek brigands near Levadia, in Ellassona district.

8. July 2.—A Greek villager, captured by Greek brigands at Matarangha, in Karditza district.

9. July 6.—Nine Greeks captured by Albanian brigands at Boroviko, in Tricalla district.

10. July 7.—Four Greek villagers captured by Greek brigands near Youvano, in Tricalla district.

The above facts clearly show that during the last few days there has been a very marked diminution of the evil, which is doubtless caused by the Ottoman troops being once more upon the alert. Their successful efforts have taken me by surprise, for I certainly did not expect that under existing circumstances they would run the risk of being shot in an inglorious warfare with bandits. Much praise is therefore due to the Asiatic soldiers who, badly paid, clothed, and fed, still obey the word of command, and sheds his life-blood far from his native land, and for the welfare of a people who hate the very sight of him, who long to transfer their allegiance to another Sovereign, and who ere long will even cease to contribute to the public revenues of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

The Governor of Thessaly to Vice-Consul Longworth.

COMME suite à l'annexe de la note verbale responsive du 20 Juin (2 Juillet), le Gouverneur de la Thessalie a l'honneur de communiquer à Mr. Longworth, Consul d'Angleterre, les détails suivants concernant le brigandage.

Les cinq bandes de brigands Hellènes qui rôdent aux environs de Domoko et dont il est fait mention dans le susdit annexe, ont franchi la frontière depuis vingt jours environ; ces bandes se livrent au brigandage la nuit et se réfugient le jour sur le territoire Grec; elles ont pour chefs les nommés Zaha, Trakli, Yani Sihari, Vangeli, et Niko Temo; ce dernier est sujet Ottoman du village d'Ismokoyo, près d'Agrapha; cependant sa famille se trouve très probablement en Grèce puisqu'elle n'est plus dans son village. L'une de ces cinq bandes est composée de dix-huit brigands et les autres en comptent chacune dix, dont quelques-uns sont des villageois Thessaliens et tout le reste de la Grèce.

Dans certains villages de Pharsala se promène une petite bande de six brigands Hellènes, conduite par le chef, Fido Yani, déserteur de l'armée Grecque.

A Armyro il y a deux bandes de brigands Hellènes dirigées par Sotir Kosta et Tchamaroula, et composées de sept et de six individus indigènes. Les familles de tous ces brigands sont en Grèce, où ils vont très fréquemment.

Dans le district de Trikala il y a plusieurs bandes de brigands venant de la Grèce, savoir:—

1. Panayoti Kaloghero, originaire de la Grèce, avec trente-cinq brigands Hellènes et Ottomans.

2. Katraha avec quarante individus, tous Hellènes.

3. Apostol, du village Ninstoha, en Grèce, avec huit brigands, également de la Grèce.

4. Ilia Tchaouch, sergent déserteur de l'armée Grecque avec quarante-six individus, originaires des divers villages de Trikala, de Grevena, et de la Grèce.

Rencontres des Troupes Impériales avec les Brigands et Soumission des derniers.

Dans la nuit du 20 Juin (2 Juillet), les troupes Impériales se sont rencontrées avec les brigands de la bande de Zolo, près de Karditza, et en ont tué un.

Le 24 Juin (6 Juillet) les troupes Impériales ont eu une rencontre avec les brigands à l'endroit nommé Dereli Deghirmeni, à Domoko; deux soldats ont été blessés et les brigands se sont enfuis en Grèce.

Le 29 Juin (11 Juillet), le chef de bande, Nicolaki Pitchopoulo, du village de Diskata, a fait sa soumission et remis ses armes avec sept brigands composant sa bande, aux autorités Impériales à Ellasson.

A la même date, Kaptain Yanko, du village Panteleïmon, a fait soumission au chef d'un bataillon de troupes aux environs d'Olympa, avec huit brigands.

Le 30 Juin (12 Juillet) quatre brigands du village Koz et trois du village Polyana, district de Derelyli, ont fait soumission au chef de bataillon se trouvant dans ces localités et ont remis entre ses mains un villageois qu'ils retenaient comme prisonnier.

Depuis deux semaines il n'y a aucun cas de brigandage à déplorer; seulement dans le district de Trikala, au village d'Ismola, les brigands au nombre de quarante ont essayé dans la nuit du 29 Juin (11 Juillet) de faire prisonniers quelques villageois. Les troupes Impériales arrivées à temps au bruit des coups de fusil, ont mis les brigands en déroute, mais elles n'ont pas pu les poursuivre à cause de l'obscurité. Dans cette démêlée un berger a été légèrement blessé et le fusil d'un soldat a éclaté sans causer aucun dommage.

Larissé, le 1 (13) *Juillet*, 1881.

No. 41.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 18.)

Scutari, August 5, 1881.

My Lord,

FROM native Christian sources, which I believe sufficiently worthy of consideration, I learn that in the southern districts of this province and in Middle Albania, comprising the towns of Elbassan and Berat, the Mussulmans are oppressing their Christian fellow-countrymen much more than formerly, and that the Ottoman authorities appear powerless to prevent exactions and persecutions by the Mahommedans.

I am assured that in the localities mentioned Christians are now obliged to withdraw and barricade themselves in their houses two hours before sunset, and that they cannot issue again in safety until many hours after sunrise.

In former times the same used to occur at Scutari, as is still evident from the structure of the houses, which are all guarded by high walls and loopholed entrances, but gradually, through the presence of European Consuls, and their representations to Constantinople whenever the local authorities failed to afford protection to the weak, a fair amount of order and safety was established.

At Prisrend, as soon as Consular officers were sent there, the Christians began to be better treated, although, certainly, some opposition was shown up to the last both on the part of the Turkish authorities and of the Mussulman natives to the residence there of the Consuls, it being evidently felt that they would ultimately succeed in securing the establishment of the reforms which had already penetrated to Scutari.

In view of these facts, I think a time will ere long arrive when, in order to prevent occurrences which would have more than mere local consequences, it may become advisable to exercise pressure on the local Ottoman functionaries, through the presence of Consular officers, to induce them to use their legitimate authority and power to gradually lead the Mussulman Albanians in the districts mentioned, to lessen the breaches which they have created in the relations between themselves and their Christian fellow-countrymen.

It is only after careful consideration, and the experience gained by me during my lengthened stay in this country, that I venture to recommend to your Lordship the appointment of two subordinate Consular officers in North-east and Middle Albania.

Irrespective of the advantages of obtaining early political information, I believe it is most important that a British Vice-Consul should reside at Prisrend, in order that the civilizing work resulting from the late presence there of European Consular officers should not be abandoned. It would be a matter for regret for all interested in the continuance of Ottoman supremacy in those quarters if the short-sighted and exclusive ideas of some Pashas should be allowed to prevail.

The Vice-Consul at Prisrend would be able to exercise his influence over the whole of the Kossovo Vilayet, as well as over the important towns of Prishtina, Kalkandelen, Ipek, Novi-Bazar, and Jacova, and should be not only in direct and frequent communication with the Embassy at Constantinople, but also with the Consulates-General at Salonica and Scutari.

As living is fairly cheap at Prisrend, I think 350*l.* a-year would be a sufficient salary, with an additional 100*l.* a-year for house rent and cavass hire. Courier expenses, biennial liveries for cavasses, and charges for travelling should be accounted for separately.

For Middle Albania the residence of the Vice-Consul should be at Elbassan, and his supervision could extend roughly from Pekini to Ochrida and from Berat to Korytza.

As this would be the first appearance of a Consular officer in those districts his selection should be made with considerable care, and he should be placed more completely under the control and direction of the Consul-General at Scutari than his colleague at Prisrend. He, however, should also correspond direct to avoid delay, both with the Embassy and with the Consul-General at Salonica.

The expenditure for the post may be the same as that for Prisrend.

Having ventured to make the foregoing recommendations to your Lordship, I trust I shall be pardoned for going a step further, and giving expression to an opinion which I am sure has found a place in the minds of all who are at all acquainted with Albania and its neighbourhood. I allude to the advisableness of

the Consular post of Janina being increased in rank, and placed in the hands of an Englishman.

I believe the present Consular Agent, Mr. Kypriotis, is a most worthy man, and to have been in every way sufficient for the post, until events and the advance of circumstances have left him in a false position.

(Confidential.)

Epirus and Janina will for the next few years be of sufficient political interest to require your Lordship to be in possession of reports from there from a man of greater weight and more impartiality than is possible from a person of the artizan class, and belonging by creed and birth to one of the two contending local parties. In Janina an English Consul would hold a position which would very frequently enable him to authoritatively make known on the spot the views of Her Majesty's Government, and often, when needful, to cause its wishes and advice to be followed by all parties.

Before concluding this long despatch, I have also to solicit your Lordship's indulgence for expressing the belief that neither at Prisrend nor at Elbassan ought any one to be sent who is not already somewhat acquainted with Eastern populations and the Ottoman dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 42.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 22.)

Therapia, August 15, 1881.

My Lord,

AT the last Conference I suggested to my colleagues that, as occasion served, we should recall the attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the case of the Janina "négociants," upon whom an extremely harsh sentence was passed for what was apparently a most inadequate offence, as noted in my despatch of the 4th ultimo.

Count Corti informs me that he has again referred to the case, and that Assim Pasha has repeated the assurance his Excellency had already given to myself, that these unfortunate persons were still at Constantinople, and that their sentence was sure to be commuted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 43.

Major Ardagh to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 20.)

Janina, Albania, August 11, 1881.

My Lord,

APART from the progress of the delimitation of the new frontier, it may be interesting to your Lordship to hear what I have been able to gather relative to brigandage in this country.

I have now been in Janina for seventeen days. During that time the following events have been reported to me, and I have no reason to doubt their general correctness:—

1. About the end of July a Turkish officer was killed in a conflict with brigands.

2. About the 1st August forty persons alleged to be brigands were captured, and are now in prison at Janina.

3. Last week three inhabitants of a village beyond Metzovo were taken as hostages by brigands, and are now held to ransom.

4. Last night two inhabitants of the village of Bisduni, about half-an-hour from Janina, on the road to Santi Quaranta, were taken by brigands, and are now held to ransom.

5. To-day news arrived of the presence of a band of brigands near Dramesi, three hours from here.

6. Several hundred families of the district of Zagori, four to six hours from here, having abandoned their villages on account of the depredations of brigands, are now refugees in Janina.

7. Two brigands killed by the Greek troops near Kalarrytos last week.

This, I understand, is a fair specimen of what has been passing here during a considerable period.

Numerous bands of brigands, some of which number as many as 150, ravage the country and levy contributions on the villagers. The total number on the Thessalian frontier is now estimated at about 600.

Although brigandage has almost always existed to some extent in the Pindus and Olympus, it has during the last two years developed to a magnitude hitherto unknown. A variety of causes have concurred to favour its extension.

The Turks on the one hand allege that the Greek Government and Hellenic Societies have in past years organized bands for the purpose of keeping Thessaly and Epirus in a state of disturbance, and thus creating evidence of their discontent under Turkish rule. The filibustering expeditions prepared in Greece which have made descents at Santi Quaranta and elsewhere give some confirmation to the Turkish statements, but I believe that this class of undertaking is now a thing of the past. The bands upon whom the mantle of the Klephts and Armatoles of the revolutionary war has descended are simply professional brigands.

On the other hand, the Albanian League in Epirus has been merely a movement promoted by the Turks to oppose annexation to Greece, and has frequently taken the form of a terrorism in the shape of brigandage, exercised on those districts which were suspected of Hellenic proclivities.

Similarly the Vlachs of the Pindus range, from the districts of Perivolia, Samarina, Afdela, and Voiussa, were incited to oppose the contemplated annexation. This movement was not a genuine one. The separatist tendencies of the Vlachs were fostered, if not created, by Roumanian national societies, which originally had only in view the laudable object of improving the education, preserving the language, and maintaining the national feeling of the scattered members of the race, but which became later the instruments of political movements for the purpose of restricting the extension of the process of Hellenization in the direction of Albania, an extension strongly disapproved of by a neighbouring Power, and, it is said, strenuously opposed. In return for impressing these views on the Vlach population of the Pindus, the Roumanians (according to those who hold this view) were to receive the Bukovina.

The Turks, too, favoured the anti-Greek agitation among the Vlachs, and the result in general was that bands were organized for the purpose of compelling the inhabitants (who, for the most part, were indifferent) to adopt these views. These bands rapidly degenerated into brigands.

Three classes, of what may be called political brigands, are thus accounted for, besides the ordinary proportion of the population addicted to predatory pursuits. These latter profited by the protection or immunity accorded to the Albanians and Vlachs.

During the Turco-Russian war, and again during the preparations for a possible war with Greece, local requirements were neglected, most of the police were withdrawn, and nothing was done to check brigandage.

The Christian villagers, not being allowed to carry arms, in consequence of their presumed insurrectionary tendencies, are unable to protect themselves, and they rarely invoke the protection of the troops, who, when sent to a village in pursuit of brigands, often neglect that duty and live at free quarters on the inhabitants, so that their presence becomes the worse evil of the two.

This misconduct seems far more due to the Pashas and officers than to the soldiers.

The greater number of the villagers, though they suffer, are thus compelled to come to an understanding with the brigands and furnish them with supplies; and the mountain shepherds, chiefly Vlachs, being entirely at their mercy, are necessarily obliged to live on good terms with them.

The authorities display a most reprehensible inactivity. Well-known brigands openly enter Janina, and purchase supplies and ammunition, and obtain information respecting the movements of suitable subjects for ransom by means of spies.

The country is now under martial law. Zeki Pasha, the General of Division commanding here (an inefficient youth, who owes his promotion to Palace influence), has about 4,000 men at his disposal, a number quite sufficient to suppress brigandage

completely in a few weeks if properly employed. In the rare expeditions made against the brigands, instead of killing them on the spot the authorities prefer to take prisoners, who, if they are rich enough, purchase their escape, and soon resume their avocations. Of the forty lately captured, it is not supposed that a single one will be executed.

The profession is now so lucrative and safe, that it is stated that an official of police at Trikala, seeing his employment about to be terminated by the cession of Thessaly to Greece, abandoned his position and took to brigandage, organizing a band which his experience has enabled him to direct with great success.

In giving your Lordship this general sketch of brigandage I have been obliged to quote hearsay reports, having, for obvious reasons, abstained from making any avowed investigation.

This terrible evil, which weighs on agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, could be easily suppressed by the vigorous action of an honest and capable man in a few weeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. ARDAGH.

No. 44.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, September 1.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 24 Août*, 1881.

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, copie avec son annexe d'une dépêche que je viens d'adresser à notre Chargé d'Affaires à Athènes relativement au brigandage qui infeste nos provinces limitrophes.

Votre Excellence verra par la lecture de ces pièces où est la source du mal.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ASSIM.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Assim Pasha to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Athens.

Sublime Porte, le 18 Août, 1881.

JE vous transmets, ci-joint, copie d'un Rapport du Gouverneur de Trikala, ayant trait au brigandage qui infeste cette province.

Ainsi que vous le relèverez de la lecture de cette pièce, Halil Bey se plaint de la recrudescence du mal dans ces derniers temps. Les bandits, sûr de l'appui moral des autorités Helléniques des districts limitrophes, commettent toute sorte de méfaits sur notre territoire, et repassent la frontière aussitôt qu'ils se voient poursuivis par les troupes Ottomanes. Ils ont, au vu et au su de tout le monde, choisi domicile en Grèce, où ils vivent sans être nullement inquiétés. Quelques fonctionnaires poussent la complaisance jusqu'à nouer des relations avec les malfaiteurs, enhardis déjà par la perspective d'une amnistie générale.

Il est évident qu'aussi longtemps que ce système d'impunité durera nous ne devons pas nous attendre au succès des efforts que les autorités Impériales ne cessent de déployer dans le but d'extirper le brigandage.

Nous le déplorons d'autant plus que depuis quelque temps nous voyons se produire des tentatives ayant pour but d'intervertir les responsabilités aux yeux des Puissances.

En attirant sur cette question votre plus sérieuse attention, je vous prie de faire auprès du Gouvernement Hellénique des démarches pressantes en vue de l'engager à adopter les mesures les mieux appropriées à seconder l'action de nos autorités tendant à maintenir la sécurité dans les districts frontières.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 45.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 12, 1881.

LARGE numbers of brigands have within the last six weeks come in and surrendered themselves to the authorities in Macedonia on the promise of a full pardon granted them by the military authorities of Thessaly.

The inclosed translated extract from a letter which I have received from my correspondent at Catterina refers to this subject, and furnishes a list of no less than 146 brigands who have been pardoned in that district alone!

A similar pardon has also been extended to eighty-two brigands in Selfidjé (Servia), a district in the Vilayet of Monastir, but subject to the Military Governor of Thessaly; and to thirty-two Bulgarians, under the chief, Elia, in the Sandjak of Monastir. The above measure is nothing less than a full amnesty.

It is not limited by any exceptions, and demands but nominal conditions, viz., a personal guarantee for future good conduct, and the liability of a pardoned brigand to the legal consequences of his acts in case any of his victims should prefer charges against him in the local Courts.

The first condition seems to have been executed, to say the least, in a blamable and unseemly manner by the authorities of Catterina. They have taken indiscriminately the first comers as guarantees for some of the most notorious robbers and cut-throats; and I have been assured by a well-informed official that a mere lad, the son of a poor washerwoman, was accepted as surety for no less than twenty of these pardoned outlaws!

With regard to the second condition, it is good for nothing, for not one out of ten victims will venture to take legal proceedings against the brigands from fear of incurring their vengeance.

Most of the brigands who have been pardoned are known to have taken an active part in numerous highway robberies; many have been instrumental in committing acts of cruelty against Turks and Christians indiscriminately; and not a few have perpetrated atrocious crimes punishable capitally.

These proceedings of the authorities of Catterina, which excite indignant comments on the part of the public, are all the more strange and unaccountable in view of the active military operations personally conducted by the Ferik Selami Pasha, second in command under Salih Pasha, for the capture or dispersion of the various bands infesting the southern districts of Macedonia.

No less than fifteen battalions of infantry have been employed for the last six weeks in these operations; they were divided into two columns, one of which watched the mountain passes and defiles, while the other marched along scouring the country to the foot of Mount Olympus.

The bands, being hard pressed by these movements, succeeded in crossing over into the district of Catterina by fording the River Vistritza (Halyacmon), which at this season of the year is fordable everywhere, and, having so far escaped the pursuit of Selami Pasha, large numbers of them eagerly accepted the ridiculous amnesty offered them by the Commandant and Kaïmakam of Catterina, with the approval of the Military Governor of Thessaly, but without the sanction or co-operation of the military authorities in Macedonia.

I have reason to know that Salih Pasha strongly deprecates these proceedings, and has telegraphed to the Porte urging it not to sanction the practice of indiscriminately extending pardon to notorious brigands and malefactors—a practice that can confer no lasting benefit on the public, while it goes far to expose the weakness of the Sultan's authority in the country.

I should not omit to report that among the brigands who have been pardoned there are more than forty Tosca Albanians from Epirus who deserted from the force instituted by the late Governor-General of Salonica, Abédine Pasha, for the suppression of brigandage.

The frequent complaints that have been made against this force have caused Salih Pasha to collect the men composing it under the immediate supervision of Selami Pasha, but as the forward movement of the latter must soon terminate he is at a loss to know how to dispose of them, having more than once represented to the Porte the absolute inefficiency, and worse, of this auxiliary police.

Some of the most desperate and notorious brigands are still at large, and likely to cause further trouble to the authorities and inhabitants of Macedonia.

Panayotti Caloyeros, with his band of more than forty individuals, moves about with impunity. He has in his possession twenty hostages, most of them being women and children, and threatens to massacre them in case he meets with molestation from the military.

Catarahia, at the head of thirty-two followers, is occasionally heard of in the districts of the Vilayet of Monastir; and Nicko, with his band reduced to seven men, has reappeared in the district of Niausta, where about three or four weeks ago he caused a Greek priest to baptize a Tosca Mahommedan who joined his band.

This baptism was performed "amid rural sights and sounds" with the most scrupulous observance of all the rites and ceremonies of the Greek Church, Nicko standing as godfather to the neophyte, and taking care to present to the officiating priest his Church dues! The Archbishop of Caraferia (Beræa), however, has, as I have been told by a gentleman who has lately arrived from there, marked his disapproval of this new missionary movement in Macedonia by inhibiting the priest of Niausta.

In the Sandjaks of Serres and Drama comparative tranquillity prevails, but in that of Useup, particularly in districts contiguous to the Bulgarian border, brigands still continue to molest the inhabitants.

The inclosed translated extract from the "Cossova Gazette" furnishes some information on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Extract from a Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Catterina, dated August 8, 1881.

(Translation.)

THE Kaïmakam and the Commandant of Catterina, as soon as they arrived here, summoned the Primates of the villages, the Abbots of the monasteries, and the Soubashis (stewards) of the farms, and said to them: "As we have come here to put a stop to brigandage, and bring back tranquillity and security, we have orders that you, the inhabitants, should also take part with the Imperial troops in this business. Arms and ammunition will be served out to you, and we call upon you to give any information you have or shall receive respecting the movements of the brigands to the officers and local authorities. You must put your signatures and seals to a document drawn up for this purpose, for we are informed that most of the brigands belong to the district."

All the inhabitants appeared willing, and signed and sealed the said document; but they put two questions to Rustem Bey, the Commandant:—

The first, if it were not possible that an amnesty should be given to those who wished to lay down their arms; and the second, whether the military measures about to be taken were general or partial, for if the people joined the troops the brigands might flee to other districts, and on the troops quitting the villages, abandoning the inhabitants to their mercy, the brigands would subsequently take their revenge on them, finding them disarmed, and at their field work. Such examples are but too recent to be forgotten.

The Commandant answered them next day, having received new orders from his superiors at Larissa, that the Government grants an amnesty to repentants, and expects guarantees for their future good conduct.

As regards the second question, Rustem Bey assured the people that the Government would never allow the village communities to remain without efficacious protection. Upon this declaration many chiefs and brigands, amounting in all to 140, as per subjoined list, laid down their arms and were pardoned.

List of Brigands who have been pardoned by the Authorities at Catterina.

Chiefs.

Arghiri Cokino, native of village Pallio Nestani.
Panayotti, native of village Colindro.
Elia Zarcoda, native of village Radani.
Koutras, native of village Kotzana.
Kara Manoli, native of village Dranista.
Thanass Spano, native of Vilayet of Monastir.
Stepho, ditto, ditto.
Vanghelli Bulgaris, ditto, ditto.
Djamali, Tosca Albanian, native of Janina.
Ghiorghi Tchamis, ditto ditto.
Yannis, Albanian, native of village of Vrondo.
Costandis Hassiotis, Albanian, native of Briatza, Thessaly.

Twelve chiefs, of whom 11 Greeks and 1 Mahommedan; 134 brigands: 146 total pardoned.

Enclosure 2 in No. 15.

Extract from the "Cossova Gazette" of July 19, 1881.

(Translation.)

OUR readers will remember how, on Monday the 15th (27th) June last, at about 11 o'clock (6·30 A.M.), a band of ruffians, fifteen in number, of Bulgarian nationality, made an inroad on a village known as Libovik Bala (Upper), situated in the Caza of Radovitza, with a population wholly Christian, and capturing three children belonging to some of the villagers, carried them off to the mountains. It appears now, from official information received by the Vali (of Cossova) from the Mutessarif of Uscup, that on the same day some fourteen persons, also Christians, from the village of Kozpoinar, in the direction of Kochana, also (like Libovik Bala) lying within the Kaïmakamlik of Radovitza, who were engaged in mowing hay on the Djebr Mountains, situated within the same Caza of Kochana, were attacked by a band of Bulgarian cut-throats, thirty in number, who bound them hand and foot. Subsequently ten of them were released, while the remaining four were detained as prisoners.

As soon as intelligence of the outrage reached the authorities prompt and effective measures were immediately taken, a body of men composed of the regular troops and zaptiehs being dispatched in pursuit. We hear that the Kaïmakam of Radovitza is making the most strenuous efforts to capture this band of marauders.

No. 16.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 10.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, September* 3, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to annex copy of my despatch of to-day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador relating to the state of public security in Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Enclosure in No. 16.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, September* 3, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Mr. Kypriotis reports that the authorities at Janina intended to disband the "Movikat," a body of irregulars charged with the suppression of brigandage, and replace it by 2,500 policemen. It appears, however, that, as these troops have to receive arrears of pay, and which

Government seems for the present at least unable to satisfy, those at Grevenó demanded full payment or they refuse to quit. The authorities have, therefore, been compelled to leave them where they are, and have even sent back to Fagori all those who, in obedience to orders, had proceeded to Janina, but who, finding out that Government did not intend to pay them, proceeded to the Italian Consulate, a step that forced the authorities to grant them one month's wages.

This is, indeed, a sad state of things, and Mr. Kypriotis is certainly somewhat justified in remarking that "this body of troops may now commit the very worst acts without any fear of the Government."

Mr. Kypriotis also reports the concentration of brigands at Hassia, and the Kaïmakam of Grevenó has, in consequence, applied for a battalion of troops. Similar applications have reached Janina from Margariti and other quarters. It is, no doubt, owing to this demand that the Mutessarif of Prevesa, with the Public Prosecutor and some troops, proceeded to Margariti last week, and returned here the other day with six or seven prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 47.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1881.

YOUR Excellency will have received a copy of Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch of the 12th ultimo, reporting the proceedings of the authorities in Thessaly in regard to the suppression of brigandage, and pointing out the manner in which the Kaïmakam and Commandant of Catterina are granting almost unconditional amnesties to the brigands. Mr. Blunt states that Salih Pasha, who is employed in dispersing these bands in Macedonia, is entirely opposed to these proceedings, and has telegraphed to the Porte on the subject.

I have to request your Excellency to take an opportunity of pointing out the impolicy of such wholesale amnesties to the Turkish Government, who have themselves objected, as I am informed by Musurus Pasha, to similar steps alleged to have been taken by the Greek Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 48.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 23.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September* 7, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a letter from my correspondent at Serres relative to the state of affairs in that sandjak.

The account he gives of the proceedings of the local authorities in matters affecting the collection or farming of the tithes upon agricultural produce coincides in the main with what I have heard from other sources, and affords a fair illustration of the manner in which the overseers and collectors of tithes are selected and appointed in Macedonia. The natural results of this are that jobbery and gross abuses largely prevail in this important branch of the provincial revenue, and I regret to say that no earnest efforts are made to check them. It is true that inquiries are occasionally instituted, but unfortunately yield no good results, as they are unattended by publicity.

The following instance which occurred not very long ago is an example of the utter uselessness of such inquiries:—

The Governor-General of Salonica, upon receiving a Report from the Mutessarif of Serres, accusing the Kaïmakam and tithe collectors of Zihna of having embezzled more than 5,000*l.*, dispatched an official to the spot to investigate the matter, and subsequently summoned the Mutessarif and the accused parties to Salonica, where a fresh inquiry was instituted, and conducted by the "Idaré Medjliss" (Adminis-

trative Council), in the presence of a member of the Council of the Ministry of Finance, Halid Bey, who was sent by the Porte for that purpose.

The inquiry was not conducted in a strict or impartial manner and was finally closed, upon the pretext that positive proofs were wanting to establish the guilt of the accused. The Government Agent returned to Constantinople armed with a "Mazbata" (Report) to the above effect, the accused were allowed to resume their duties at Zihna, and the Mutessarif was sent back to his post with a hint not to take any further action in the matter; and yet it is generally said and believed, in the best-informed circles here and at Serres, that the Mutessarif furnished ample proofs of the defalcations in question.

A few days ago another official, Riza Effendi, arrived here from Constantinople to make an inquiry on the part of the Minister of Finance into the alleged corrupt transactions of some members of the Local Administration who have been intrusted with the sale by public auction of this year's tithes; but the prevailing impression here is that this inquiry also will not lead to the exposure and punishment of the delinquents.

With regard to the attempt of the authorities of Serres to levy double the amount of "emlak," or tax on real property, I believe it will be abandoned, owing to the strong feeling manifested against the measure by the Turkish and Christian land-owners in that and other parts of Macedonia.

A similar attempt was made at Salonica not long ago, and relinquished in consequence of the united action of the leading Turkish and Christian Notables and land-owners, who respectfully remonstrated with the Governor-General against any further increase of this property tax.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Extract from a Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Serres.

August 23, 1881.

THE complaints regarding the sale of the tithes are various, and from sundry quarters. First the staff of overseers, gatherers, &c., appointed to collect the tithes for account of the Government, have been bitterly disappointed. At first the Turkish local authorities decided to appoint only Turks in this service. The Christian members of the konak protested against this, and insisted that their co-religionists should have a share of the appointments, or else they would resign. The Turks softened down and agreed to appoint a certain number of non-Mussulmans. They asked exorbitant security, the Christians managed to give it, and in most instances had to give a heavy "backsheesh" besides to obtain an appointment.

These officials, both Christians and Turks, enter this service not merely for the sake of the monthly wages, which are trifling and uncertain, but with the hope of plundering the Government. Now they are dismissed, and are told to receive a month's wages from the buyers of the tithes; they, therefore, have lost their time, money, hopes of booty, and are thrown nearly penniless out of situation: hence great dissatisfaction prevails amongst them.

Again, the peasants have been ordered by the authorities to cease harvesting and husbanding their crops till the arrival of the buyers of the tithes. This threw the peasantry into a state of consternation. Some villages sent in Petitions, remonstrating; but to these the local authorities paid no attention, and merely tore them up; the peasantry then decided to take no heed of the Government injunction and continue their harvesting operations, whereupon police were sent to stop collection of the crops. I now hear that the peasantry intend coming here *en masse* to protest.

The fact of arresting harvesting at this critical moment may be fraught with evil consequences. Bad weather may come on, and deteriorate or damage the crops. Besides the crops remaining in the fields, the farmers are afraid of abuses and robberies among themselves.

I hear the local authorities have ordered the "Mukhtars" to collect "emlak," or property tax, and to give receipts only for the ordinary tax without including the surcharge.

Whether this measure be adopted through instructions from higher quarters, or upon the initiative of the local authorities with a view to replenish their pockets, is not known; but, I regret to say, the latter supposition is considered as the most probable.

I hear our Mutessarif was detained at Salonica for having exposed gross abuses in the collection of last year's tithes in Zihna and other districts; instead of being thanked he has got himself into trouble.

As I stated to you in my last Report, brigandage in its true sense is extinct in this sandjak, but, owing to the inefficiency of the police and Tribunals to repress and punish crimes, a general sense of insecurity prevails.

A most extraordinary instance occurred at the beginning of this month, which caused surprise and indignation in the Christian community.

A party of about ten individuals were returning from the fair at Perna towards evening, about half an-hour's distance from Serres; the party was attacked, the assailants fired pistol-shots, wounding in the ear one of them; they then robbed them of their cash and some of their horses. The victims of this outrage reported the circumstances to the authorities, police were sent to the spot, and returned, reporting that no trace of the robbers could be found. The authorities then turned round against the plaintiffs, and accused them of having been drunk, and told them that their complaint was a tissue of lies, &c. The "Urfie," or Military Tribunal, then ordered them to be imprisoned, thereby adding insult to injury. These individuals being respectable, they were finally released through the kind intercession of the Greek Archbishop.

Most of the crimes and offences are attributed to the "muhadjirs" (war fugitives). Some of these appear to be respectable and have trades; others seem to be the refuse and scum of Bulgaria.

The above reports I obtain from Christian sources, and do not believe there is any exaggeration. The fact, however, is incontestable that grumbling and discontent exist; the Tribunals are getting worse; the repressive power of justice against malefactors is getting weaker; and, in general, it is undeniable the country is deteriorating, and unless stringent measures be adopted to change and ameliorate circumstances, matters may come to a crisis.

No. 49.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, September* 24, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of my despatches of to-day to the Earl of Dufferin relating to various subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, September* 24, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with your Excellency's despatch of the 26th ultimo, I did not fail to ask Mr. Kypriotis for explanations as to the "Convention" he refers to in his despatch of the 21st July last, when reporting the imprisonment of Constantine, Spiridion Suliotis of Koritzani, and he replies as follows:—

"I made use of that phrase, not because I had any official information, but simply because, if I am not mistaken, I read in the newspapers at the time about exertions and Convention between Her Majesty's Government and the Porte, according to which a fixed time was given to the insurgents to lay down their arms and receive amnesty. But as Her Majesty's Government, out of kindness, asserts that such a thing did not take place, I beg leave to apologize for the mistake."

From Mr. Kypriotis' reply, your Excellency will no doubt perceive that the translation was perfectly correct, and as I always translate Mr. Kypriotis' despatches myself, I respectfully beg leave to add that in doing so I am always very careful not to depart from the true meaning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, September* 24, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Mr. Kypriotis reports the escape, from the prisons at Janina, of thirteen brigands, and the recapture of five of them. He also forwards to me copy of a telegram dated Samarina, from a certain Bessio, Agent to the Roumanian emissary, Apostoli Margaritu, to the Roumanian Consul at Salonica, informing the latter that several "Roumanian" (Kutzo-Vlac) brigands, who had surrendered to the authorities, have been sent to Janina tied, and soliciting instructions. The object of Mr. Kypriotis in supplying me with the above copy of the telegram is to show me the open manner in which these Roumanian emissaries are allowed to act.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 49.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, September* 24, 1881.

IN forwarding to your Excellency the inclosed translation, I have the honour to remark that the first two of the therein-mentioned propositions are, in my opinion, no propositions at all, but measures that have been carried out in part already, for the Commission which is to take the census has been appointed, and the sums to be contributed by the various Departments have also been fixed. I shall therefore ask Mr. Kypriotis to be a little more explicit on the subject, and I shall not fail to communicate to your Excellency his reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 49.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Janina, September* 15, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on Monday last, in pursuance of instructions from Constantinople, the Vali invited the principal members of the three communities to a Council, and proposed to them as follows:—

1. The necessity of taking a new census of the inhabitants and of their property, for which object a Commission, to be presided by Liva Emin Pasha, has been appointed.

2. The inhabitants to contribute towards the settlement of Turks at Philipiades, which is to take the place of Arta. And it has been decided that the Departments of Berat and of Argyrocastro are to give 25,000 piastres each, and that of Janina, not including Prevesa, 30,000 piastres.

3. That a Council should be held for the suppression of brigandage, which ended without result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 5 in No. 49.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, September* 24, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Mr. Kypriotis informs me privately that the Vali has summoned to Janina the chief men of Paramithia. I should therefore hope that the Vali, who I have been assured would gladly take steps against the latter for his villainous conduct of late years at Paramithia, will not be prevented from doing so (if he is still disposed) by Mustapha's patron, Zeki Pasha.

As I do not wish to draw a comparison between these two officials, I limit myself to saying that, according to all accounts, the Vali appears to be a good and honest person, and is, moreover, universally liked; but the misfortune is that his actions, if not completely baffled, are, to say the least of it, to a very great extent crippled by that power of command which has unfortunately of late years either been transferred to the military authorities, or has gradually been usurped by them.

I take advantage of this opportunity also to report that the Greek war brig "Salamina" entered the gulf on Tuesday last, and the Greek steamer "Iris," with King George's horses, passed through the Straits, bound to Menidi, on Wednesday, and left the gulf early this morning.

My Greek colleague received a telegram to the effect that King George of Greece is expected to arrive at Arta on Monday or Tuesday next.

A new Bishop for Prevesa has been appointed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 50.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

My Lord, *Scutari, September* 18, 1881.

ALTHOUGH no serious consequences are likely to arise from the two occurrences I am about to recount to your Lordship, still I venture to report them, as they will afford your Lordship a clear idea of the state of the country here, and of the apparent impotency of the Turkish local authorities.

During the recent Mahommedan feast of the Bairam, the son of one of the feudal nobles at Alessio, a young man about 19 years of age, amused himself, together with a Christian servant belonging to one of the neighbouring tribes, by firing at the bell of the Christian church at Alessio as a mark.

Last week the Mahommedans of that town were surprised to see a body of about 400 armed Christian mountaineers of the neighbourhood enter their market, and presently learnt that they required the delivery to them of the youth, Mehemet Agha, and his Christian servant. They stated they had left another body of 400 of their tribesmen outside the town; that if the Mahommedans declined their demand, they would give them twenty-four hours to prepare their houses for defence, to send for ammunition or for assistance, and to remove their women and children to their friends; but that if, at the expiration of the time granted, the two men were not delivered, Alessio and its Mahommedan population would be utterly destroyed.

The Moslems held a meeting in the mosque to consider the summons, and decided to comply with it.

When the Christians received their prisoners they fired a general salute and withdrew.

It is understood that they have since held a trial of the culprits, and that they have condemned the Christian servant to death, not only for sacrilege but for many other crimes; and that Mehemet Agha is to be retained a prisoner for a sufficient time for him to understand that there are other prisons in the country besides those of the Ottoman Government.

The other occurrence is less favourable to the Christians from a chivalrous point of view.

A harem of a Turkish officer belonging to the garrison of Tousi went last

Friday for a short walk in the neighbourhood of the fort, accompanied by a guard of two Turkish soldiers. Presently two Roman Catholic mountaineers of the Hotti tribe, in order to rob the soldiers of their Martini rifles, shot them from behind the rocks, killing the one and wounding the other. On the alarm being given a whole battalion was marched out, and for some time the mountaineers amused themselves firing shots at it in bravado from their inaccessible peaks.

Messengers have been sent by the Vali to the Hotti Chiefs demanding the surrender of the guilty mountaineers, and threats have been used of attacking the whole tribe, but as yet no signs have been shown of compliance with the Vali's demands.

It is possible that the Hotti will attempt to put forward the present act as a set-off for a recent outrage by some soldiers on a Hotti woman, and for which the tribe was unable to obtain any redress from the authorities here, but, in any case, it is probable that neither the Vali nor the military commanders will advise that active operations should be undertaken against the premier tribe of the Roman Catholic mountains, and which might quickly degenerate into fighting with all the Christian clansmen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 51.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7.)

(Extract.) *Scutari, September 23, 1881.*

FROM a person worthy of credit, who recently arrived from Prisrend, I learn that some days ago an Orthodox church, built on the outskirts of Prisrend by the Wallach residents, was burnt.

An attempt has been made to fix this outrage on the Bulgarian community, but the disagreements which had arisen when the Bulgarians separated from the other Orthodox communities having long ago ceased the Wallachs suspect, therefore, that the church was set fire to by Mahommedans.

No. 52.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received October 13.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, October 1, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my despatch of to-day to the Earl of Dufferin relating to the insecurity that prevails in Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, October 1, 1881.*

I HAVE from time to time reported to your Excellency on the state of insecurity that prevails in the interior of Epirus owing to the numerous bands of brigands that exist there, and it is now with regret that I have the honour to state that Prevesa, which, up to a short time ago, was considered safe, is unfortunately no longer so. Not many days since a native of Paramithia, who had come to Prevesa for the purpose of selling some goats, was, while returning to his native town, brutally murdered on the high road between Prevesa and Nicopolis. His body was brought to town, where it was interred. This murder was soon followed by another act, and which has caused, perhaps, a greater sensation. As I was returning from my afternoon walk on Sunday last I met several zaptiehs, who were proceeding in great haste towards one of the town gates, and on inquiring

what was the matter I was told that a Jew and his son had just been carried off by brigands. Their capture was effected about 200 yards outside the walls of the town, and the Public Prosecutor, with two other members of the judicial body, happening to be near there at the time, and hearing the cries, proceeded in that direction, and saw the brigands, five in number, making off with the prisoners. The Jew returned next morning, but his son was kept a hostage.

The leader of this band of outlaws is a Turk, native of Prevesa, and up to a few months back a cavass in the Italian Vice-Consulate; the other four are Christians. I am happy to say, however, that they have all been captured. The leader and two of the band, together with the young Jew they had carried off, were brought to town yesterday.

From Mr. Kypriotis I constantly hear of captures, sometimes followed by murder. For instance, on the 22nd ultimo he reports that a band of eighty brigands entered the village of Isgar (district of Premeti) and carried off seven schoolboys, whose ransom they fixed at £ T. 7,000, and, in order to compel the parents to be quick with the money, they sent in the head of one of the boys.

It is therefore owing to this state of affairs that I respectfully venture to suggest, especially as the shooting season is about to commence, that all British subjects intending to visit Epirus either for sport or for business should be warned against doing so, and, further, that should they insist in coming notwithstanding the warning that is given to them, I should wish them to understand as clearly as possible that they do so at their own risk, for I cannot answer for their safety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 53.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received October 15.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, October 8, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of my despatch of to-day and of its inclosure to the Earl of Dufferin, containing more precise information as to the Council that has recently been held at Janina, and which was the subject of Mr. Kypriotis' despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, October 8, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 24th ultimo, I have now the honour to inclose herewith extract from Mr. Kypriotis' despatch, dated the 29th September, containing more precise information as to the Council that has recently been held at Janina, and which was the subject of his despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
(Extract.) *Janina, September 29, 1881.*

THE Vali communicated to the Council an order from Constantinople, to the effect that a census is to be taken of the inhabitants and of their property.

In the Council the Vali proposed that a contribution should be made by the inhabitants towards the building of Philipiades, and the contribution, as I already reported to you, has been decided upon, and the result communicated to Constantinople.

The Vali submitted to the Council a query from Constantinople as to the local opinion respecting the extirpation of brigandage.

You will be surprised to learn that I have just heard that, in consequence of fresh instructions, the Vali has held back the taking of the census.

No. 54.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October 7*, 1881.

SINCE my despatch of the 12th August last upon brigandage in Macedonia, and the measures adopted by the military authorities against this evil, nine robber chiefs with fifty-three of their followers have surrendered and been brought to Salonica, where they are detained in the citadel.

The following are the names of the nine chiefs:—

Panayotti Calogheros, Ghiorghi Teham, Vanghellis Bozaris, Thanass Gavias, Cara Manolis, Maloush, Djamali, Psalidaki, and Mekas.

All the above are Greeks with the exception of Maloush and Djamali, who belong to the Tosca tribe of Albanians, and deserted from the irregular corps of police which was organized in this province by Abédine Pasha.

These brigands have been concerned in the commission of numerous robberies, murders, and other heinous and cruel outrages. Ghiorghi Teham has murdered within the space of the last three years no less than nine Christians and five Turks.

It appears that they have been unconditionally pardoned by the Ferik Selami Pasha and the authorities of Catterina; at least they maintain, and assert that they have letters to prove, that they surrendered themselves upon the faith of a free and full pardon offered to them by the Pasha in the name of the Government.

Salih Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the troops in the Vilayet of Salonica, denies having authorized such a proceeding, and is now inquiring into the matter. His Excellency earnestly disclaims and deprecates any course on the part of the authorities which is likely to confirm the rumour prevalent here, that the surrender of the brigands has been procured through unfair and treacherous means, and will, I believe, ratify the unconditional pardon, if it has been really made by his subordinate, Selami Pasha. But he wishes all the circumstances connected with this matter to be clearly established by a Court of Inquiry, in order to prove to the Government and the public that he has all along disapproved of the mischievous system of condoning the offences of the lawless classes.

Be this as it may, I very much regret to say that the action of the authorities in this affair has awakened the mistrust and fear of the numerous brigands whose surrender I reported in my despatch of the 12th August. Already several of them have taken to the mountains in the district of Catterina, and resumed their depredations.

Their first victim was an Austro-Hungarian subject, a certain Adam Rudolph, who was sent by the Municipality of Salonica to survey some stone quarries in that district.

His captors have sent letters to the Governor-General and my Austrian colleague demanding £ T. 15,000 for his ransom, and threatening, in case the demand is not complied with, to kill him.

The state of affairs is very much worse in other districts of Macedonia, particularly in those of Kastoria (Kesrié), Korytza (Giorteha), Strommnitza, Djuma, Melnik, and Serres.

The inclosed copies of two letters which I have received from Serres, and four extracts from the two newspapers of Salonica, viz., the "Pharos of Macedonia," published in Greek, and the "Selanik," in Turkish, exhibit generally the misgoverned condition of the country, and call for the application of prompt and efficient remedies. The fact is, this province is being ruined by brigandage, which has assumed the importance of a system, and is carried on with impunity and success; and I am afraid that I am not wrong in stating that the general condition of the districts I have named is very much worse than it was ten years ago.

The Porte would do well to give its serious attention to this state of things without further delay. Salih Pasha has at last succeeded in inducing the Porte to dismiss the Albanian irregulars who were employed in police duties in this vilayet,

and whose misconduct I reported in some of my despatches; 520 of these irregulars were disbanded and sent to their homes last week. The adoption of this measure has been greeted with general satisfaction by all classes of the peaceable inhabitants, who now hope that his Excellency will also succeed in his further representations recommending the immediate organization of a proper gendarmerie as the most practicable and effective remedy for re-establishing order and tranquillity in the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 54.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Serres.

Sir, *Serres, September 16*, 1881.

A PRIMATE of the village of Radolivo, in the Caza of Zyhna in this sandjak, laid yesterday before me the following complaint on the part of the inhabitants of the said village against the Turkish authorities.

Last month, on the day of the fair of the village, after mass had been read in the church, the people assembled in the inclosure or yard of the church, and, as is customary on such occasions, danced to the tunes of rough music. About thirty Turks, some of them armed, entered the inclosure and interrupted the proceedings, with the object of carrying away the musicians. The peasants resisted, whereupon the Turks assaulted them, some drawing knives. Heads were broken, wounds given, and amongst the wounded was a woman. The peasants got frightened and dispersed. The fair was spoiled, the church losing thereby the perquisites it expects to reap on this occasion, which happens once a-year.

The Christians appointed a Committee—one of them was my informant—who telegraphed to the Patriarch and the Pasha of Salonica, imploring protection and satisfaction for the outrage. The Governor of Serres received orders to make inquiries. The "Mudei Oumoumi" (Public Prosecutor) was sent hence to the village.

On his arrival there the Primates related to him the above occurrence.

They further complained that the Turkish villagers, with the exception of Elias Bey, who lives quietly on his estates without participating in the affairs of the village, are continually molesting the Christian villagers, and that sheep and cattle stealing takes place on the part of the Turks with impunity; that the waters of the village fed four fountains, two in the Christian and two in the Turkish quarter. The Turks cut off the water feeding the fountains of the Christians and turned it all to their own fountains, thus compelling the Christians to visit the Turkish part of the village to obtain water, and there they are exposed to insults on the part of the Turks; injuries and offensive language are used by the latter against the religion and the honour of the women of the former. They, the Turks, break the jars of the Christians and otherwise seriously molest and insult them.

After hearing all this, the aforesaid Public Prosecutor (his name is Haki Bey) answered that he was not sent there to listen to such complaints. These should be referred to the Kaïmakam of Zyhna.

He was sent there to examine offences against religion. The music being interrupted after Mass, the scuffle which ensued was a mere police case out of his jurisdiction. The said official then wrote out a document, stating that hitherto the Turkish and Christian villagers lived in perfect harmony, peace, and concord, and that the latter had no complaint against the former. Two of the Christian Primates, being overawed, signed the document, the rest refused (one of them was my informant), and for this were told by the Public Prosecutor that they should consider themselves under arrest.

My informant has come to Serres, and is now attending the konak for the last fifteen days to protest formally against the proceedings of the Public Prosecutor, and urges against him that, although he was appointed by higher authority to examine their grievances, he has, instead, left them altogether without redress, thus countenancing and encouraging the badly-disposed Turks to continue their molestations and evil practices. The village of Radolivo is composed of 600 houses, 70 of which are Turkish, the rest Christian. The latter bitterly complain

that they should be continually molested and terrorized by such a minority, and that their complaints are left unheard and they defenceless against their persecutors.

My informant has stated the above complaints to all the foreign Consuls here, and related them to me for communication to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ————.

Note by Consul-General Blunt.

I have related the substance of the above letter to Rizvan Bey, the Public Prosecutor of the vilayet. He told me that, having learned the circumstances from a recent paragraph published in the Greek newspaper "Pharos of Macedonia," he had at once directed his subordinate at Serres to furnish him with a full Report of his proceedings at Radolivo.

He promised me to give his best attention to the complaints of the Christians of that village.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

October 3, 1881.

Inclosure 2 in No. 54.

M. ———— to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le 17 Septembre*, 1881.

VEUILLEZ me permettre de vous décrire quelques-uns des malheurs qui infestent notre province, provenant de la grande inactivité et indifférence des autorités, et qui nous ont conduit dans la plus grande anarchie.

Vous n'avez pas sans doute oublié l'assassinat commis, il y a quelques jours, dans le village de Covnitza, par une bande de soi-disant insurgés Bulgares, lesquels ont détruit une famille entière et cela par pure vengeance; car un des assassinés avait peu de jours auparavant cité devant la justice un homme de la susdite bande. Cet individu ayant réussi de s'échapper de la prison de Serres est allé à la bande et l'a conduit au village pour commettre le massacre.

Il ne se passe pas de jour qu'on n'entend pas des meurtres, des brigandages, des vols, &c. Il y a quelques jours on a découvert deux Chrétiens assassinés sur la route entre Djuma et Demirhissar; un autre à Verdjany; un autre à Loubeskioi, et Mardi dernier des Kirdadjis revenant de Negrita ont été dépouillés de leur argent et chevaux.

Des vols et autres crimes ont été aussi commis dans les villages de Vroudus, Doudlu, et Rahovitza.

Pour l'assassinat de Covnitza aucune mesure a été prise par l'autorité jusqu'à présent.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) ————.

Inclosure 3 in No. 54.

Letter in the "Pharos of Macedonia," dated from Stroumnitza, September 3 (15), 1881.

(Translation.)

THE truth is, that the town of Stroumnitza has been reduced within the last few days to a state of siege, seeing that no one dare show his face outside without running considerable risk.

In the course of a fortnight no less than twelve persons have been captured by the brigands, and are now in their hands.

Their captors demand very large sums for the ransom of these victims, one of whom is the unfortunate son of M. D. Pappa-Moïses, and for whom they demand 500*l*. Last Tuesday (6th September) MM. Sekoulu, father and son, of the village of Eleousa, were captured in broad daylight close to their village. On the 8th

instant the Turk Osman, from the village of Thaupila, while crossing the mountain stream Trakaina, was seized and made prisoner only a quarter-of-an-hour's distance from Stroumnitza.

This very morning a shepherd, a member of the Boyadji family, was found murdered near Banitza, half-an-hour's walk from this town.

If the brigands are to continue with the same unabated severity this system of capturing the inhabitants, the whole population of the district of Stroumnitza, consisting of 40,000, will have been captured. What will become of us if this sort of thing is to continue we really do not know. At present every inhabitant of this town sees himself predestined to die of starvation, since no one can, without running great risk, leave the town and devote himself to the cultivation of his fields or to the acquirement of the common necessaries of life. Our Ottoman fellow-citizens who are proprietors of landed estates are reduced to very great straits, they having been obliged to abandon their properties to the entirely unfettered disposition of unscrupulous bailiffs, who, seizing the opportunity thus afforded them, are robbing their masters, and aggravating to a still greater extent the present very bad state of affairs.

About three months ago the local Administrative Council decided on the formation of three irregular bodies of troops, consisting each of forty armed men, with a view to a better organized and a more systematic pursuit of the brigands. All the inhabitants readily undertook the maintenance of these men from their private resources. However, they had hardly left the town to make a tour, when they were recalled and set aside, only one "tchaoush" (sergeant), and he a man totally unfitted for so important a service, being left to patrol the country with a small following, more as a show than anything else. The reason of this change of plans must be sought for from the Kaïmakam, who hitherto has been unable to grasp the fact that by pursuing his present line of conduct he is in reality contributing to the desolation of the country by this scourge of brigandage, and is exposing to the condemnation of foreigners and of the enemies of the Empire the real interests of the Imperial Government, of which the chief is surely the preservation of the lives and properties of the inhabitants.

As a matter of fact, the impracticability of any organized pursuit by means of the regular troops has been clearly proved over and over again, at all events in this part of the country.

The Imperial troops have always shown valour and an utter indifference to hardship in their conflicts with the brigands, but here they cannot effectually hunt down the brigands without the aid of irregular troops raised on the spot, for the simple reason that the brigands come down into the plains, commit some act of robbery, and then take refuge in the never-ending forests of the thickly-wooded slopes of Mount Orbelus, which extend from Stroumnitza to Melnik. In such places the regular army cannot operate. The brigands, making for their fastnesses, remain there in perfect security until the recollection of the recently committed act of brigandage begins to fade from men's minds, when, sallying forth again, they make a raid on either the Caza of Melnik or on Petritz, or on Malesi, or on Stroumnitza, from which districts the brigands will never be thoroughly extirpated as long as we persevere in the present ineffectual method adopted for their destruction. It is true we cannot suggest a better plan, and yet a very general conviction prevails to the effect that brigandage will only be thoroughly stamped out in these districts when at least ten battalions of regular troops shall have been stationed permanently in Stroumnitza, when the military operations now going on between Malesi, Melnik, Petritz, and Stroumnitza shall be carried on with Stroumnitza as their base, when by means of a real military cordon connecting these four points a strict watch shall be kept to prevent the brigands escaping into the forests above mentioned, and finally, when Malesi shall be made administratively independent of Stroumnitza, or else converted into a Kaïmakamlik, dependent on Stroumnitza, which in that case would of necessity be converted into a Mutessarillik.

Inclosure 4 in No. 54.

Letter dated September 5 (17), 1881, from a Correspondent at Korytza (Gjortcha) to the "Pharos of Macedonia."

(Translation.)

TRULY heartrending are the crimes that are daily committed in the districts of Castoria, Korytza, and Premet. It is a month ago that brigandage has assumed a menacing aspect, and daily it increases in the intensity of its crimes and the number of its members.

I omit to mention the full details of the capture of five rich inhabitants of the village of Boyatzco, who were set free within five days after the payment of 1,000 Turkish liras as ransom, and of the capture of four women from the village of Bobin, near Nasilitza. I shall pass on to more tragic facts.

In the village of Ghianoven, included in the district of Chroupista, twenty-five brigands pillaged the houses of the richest inhabitants, killed the Mukhtar, and captured four Turks who happened to be there as tax-collectors, whom they carried off to the mountains, together with four of the village Primates. The poor Turks were massacred, and for the ransom of the Primates the sum of 1,000 Turkish liras is demanded.

The brigands have also carried off the mules of some poor wood-cutters of the village of Drenotho, between Korytza and Darda; from the village of Tsgar, in the district of Premet, they have captured six peasants and three pupils of the school, whom they keep with them, demanding exorbitant ransoms for their release; in the village of Loupiska they pillaged two houses, the inmates of which, however, succeeded in escaping.

Again, between the villages of Bythokouki and Panarit, in the district of Korytza, the following tragedy has occurred:—

Eight days ago fifty brigands, under the chief, Shahin, fell upon some villagers of Trebiska, who were returning from the market of Korytza, and killed five Christians and three Turkish guards, and wounded seven more, whose state is precarious; to the same village, scarcely before the inhabitants buried their dead, letters were sent by another band demanding 600 Turkish liras, and threatening to burn it if the money were not paid. A similar demand was sent to other villages near Trebiska, and their inhabitants have in consequence barricaded themselves in their houses.

Only three days ago the Primates of the villages of Zitsista, Slimnitza, Jioressi-Kionlitza, and Synitza called on the Mutessarif (Governor) of Korytza and showed his Excellency the letters they had received from the brigand chiefs, asking from every village 300 Turkish liras and two Martini rifles. The letters were read at the konak. All this is a most palpable proof of the terrible state of affairs. Indeed, no one can confidently affirm that he is free from danger, and no business can be transacted between the villages.

The Bishop of Castoria, while making a tour in his district of Colonia, has had a very narrow escape from the brigands, and owes his safety to the timely assistance of two Turkish Notables, Hafiz Bey and Rustem Bey. I cannot but publicly praise the efforts of this worthy Prelate in favour of the suffering Christians. He spoke with courage and firmness to the Governor and the Medjliss (of Korytza), telling them most frankly that they are responsible to the Sultan's Government for this shameful state of things. The answer of the Pasha to this courageous Bishop was that he had transmitted the above cases to the superior authorities and asked for a battalion of regular troops.

With a handful of soldiers brigandage cannot be effectually pursued. At this moment I am informed that 300 soldiers have arrived from Monastir.

This good Bishop has not only made representations, but succeeded in getting the authorities to arm the inhabitants and to release five Christians unjustly detained in prison at Castoria. He has also sent full reports on the situation to the Vali of Monastir and the Greek Patriarch of Constantinople; in one word, he has acted as a prelate comprehending his sublime mission.

So deplorable is the state of the country in general, the brigands being armed with first-rate Martini rifles, that if the authorities do not take immediate and severe measures, keeping a sufficient force for the purpose, every district will be destroyed, for the bands may be called legions, and the conclusion is—what is the object of this Albano brigandage?

Inclosure 5 in No. 54.

Letter published in the "Pharos of Macedonia."

(Translation.) *Alystrati (in Sandjak of Serres), September 22, 1881.*

LAST week some—"Comitadjis" so called—Bulgarian insurgents broke into the house of the upright and noble-minded citizen, M. Karomphezes (a Greek), and murdered him. Not content with this, they carried off with them to the mountains two of his sons, whom they literally cut to pieces.

Rumour says that it was an act of vengeance.

A somewhat similar affair has happened in a hamlet known as Smolenitza, where some brigands broke by night into a mill and murdered the miller.

On the 15th instant, as a party of twelve persons, who had come to pay a devotional visit to the monastery, and had accomplished the object of their journey, were leaving the place, they were attacked and stripped by some brigands, whose nationality is at present unknown, who at the same time carried off their mules.

As soon as the travellers had recovered from their fright they went in pursuit of the brigands, whom they followed right up to a defile of Mount Orbelus, where they came to a hand-to-hand conflict, routed their rascally opponents, and recovered their beasts.

Inclosure 6 in No. 54.

Paragraph in the "Selanik" of September 16, 1881.

(Translation.)

A TELEGRAM has been received by the Governor-General from the Mutessarif of Serres, announcing that Dimitri, the brother of the Primate of Shoshendjé, and the peasants of the villages of Tarsova and Gradova, in the Caza of Djuma, in the Sandjak of Serres, who were captured the other day by Bulgarian brigands and carried off to the mountains, have succeeded in effecting their escape, and reached their village homes. The Mutessarif adds that the brigands are hotly pursued.

No. 55.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received October 22.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, October 15, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, translated copies of two despatches from Mr. Kypriotis, which I forward by to-day's post to the Earl of Dufferin, relating to the unsatisfactory state of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Janina, September 30, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to communicate to you the following acts of brigandage:—

On Saturday last a peasant, named Phakanos, while escorting two women to his native village, Tzepelovon Zagori, was captured by brigands at a place called Bisinna, about six hours distant from Janina, and, when they were all robbed, the women were set free and he was carried away.

On Monday last the village of Molista, which is situated three hours distant from Conitza, was pillaged by brigands and two houses burnt.

On Wednesday last other brigands sacked four houses in the village of Paleokori, Zagori. It is said that these brigands were Turco-Albanians.

I take advantage, therefore, of the perpetration of these outrages to beg leave to relate to you briefly the state of the country.

According to the information supplied to me, the neighbourhood of Conitza alone is the head-quarters of six bands of brigands, whose chiefs are Sulios, Giannlis Kerassovites, Katarakias, Gianulis Zermos, Giovanni Zoukes, and Morufas. These brigands commit various acts of brigandage whenever they find an opportunity, in consequence of which the country suffers immensely.

The duty of preventing the perpetration of these acts is intrusted to the "Movikat," who are soldiers only in name, being principally Albanian irregulars; and these men, whose duty is to restore order in the affected districts, on the contrary, commit the worst acts wherever they pass through. As an illustration of this, you will allow me to inclose herewith a list of the expenses incurred by the inhabitants of only one village, that of Proskoli, each time Gonsbashi Tezoulah, of the "Movikat," passed through that village. I omit, for the sake of decency, other acts committed by them.

As to the soldiers belonging to the Hoodut, many of them turn brigands at night, and in daytime they openly and in numerous ways oppress the peasants, from whom they extort money under threat that they would otherwise accuse them of being harbourers of brigands.

It is impossible to prove those evils and lay them before the authorities, for he who would dare do so would next day be found murdered or his house burnt to the ground.

Another kind of oppression is carried on by the zaptiehs at certain periods. For instance, when a body of troops has to move from one place to another, and transport animals are required to carry their baggage, the duty of requisitioning animals is intrusted to the zaptiehs, who by way of speculation, instead of requisitioning the number of animal actually required, requisition double and treble the number, and when those required have been secured the rest are set free as soon as a reward is given.

I am informed that the people, especially those along the Greek frontier, are so tired of these as well as of other criminal and outrageous acts, that they intend migrating to Greece.

The Government, which, nevertheless, is aware of it, seems unable to take some energetic step, and this, I hear, because the two chief authorities—the civil and the military—instead of acting together in suppressing the evil, are, on the contrary, at variance, and each one tries to soar above the other, the one because he occupies a civil post, and the other because he is the Commander of the troops, and has in his power the Military Tribunals, which he considers independent, and will, therefore, not allow the civil authority to interfere in the least. It is probable that other private differences may also exist between them of which I am not aware, but the truth is that, owing to this difference, the country suffers considerably.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Janina, October* 5, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report the following tragic incident which took place in the evening of Sunday last:—

Twelve brigands entered the village of Vanista, situated on the opposite side of the lake of Janina. They besieged the house of the principal peasant, Christo Batsika by name, and, as he happened to be absent, three women who were inside the house began to cry out for help. The brigands forced their way into the house, and avenged themselves by murdering the three women, two of whom were pregnant, in a most brutal manner. It is said that these brigands were Hooduts, but up to the present moment nothing positive has been ascertained.

That same night another band of outlaws, said to have been Turco-Albanians, entered the village of Tsernio Zagori, and captured the wealthiest inhabitant, named Anagnosti, together with his daughter. They also plundered his house, as well as another.

[A detailed account of a quarrel between four Hooduts and a shoemaker at Janina, and which would have ended in the beating of the latter had not his workmen and others interfered, is here given, and I suppose that which induced Mr. Kypriotis to mention it is that he happened to be present, for he adds]:—

"As I was an eye-witness of so unjust an act, humanity impelled me to call on the Vali, and, in a friendly way, represent to him this affair, as well as other evils. The Vali denied nothing, said I was right in making these representations, and added that, once that the Military Courts exist, all action is paralyzed; that he has telegraphed to Constantinople four times to be authorized to get out himself with a military force to pursue the brigands, but that he received no answer. This conversation ended, he ordered, in my presence, the arrest of the above Hooduts, but unfortunately they are still free. This shows how careless the Government is in punishing a soldier who is intrusted with the preservation of public peace and order."

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 56.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 15, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with copies of its four inclosures, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the persecution of native Protestants at Stroumnitza and to my action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 13, 1881.

YOUR Lordship will learn from the inclosed copy of a letter from the Rev. Mr. Jenney, a missionary of the American Board for Eastern Turkey, that the small community of native Protestants in the town of Stroumnitza, an important Bulgarian centre in Macedonia, are being persecuted at the instigation of the Greek Archbishop there.

Immediately the matter was brought under my notice by the above-named missionary I requested the Governor-General in a letter, of which the inclosed is a translated copy, to telegraphically direct the Sub-Governor of Stroumnitza to set free a certain Tané (who was imprisoned by the local authorities without a trial upon the alleged ground of having used offensive language to the Archbishop), and to afford protection to the native Protestants from further persecution.

His Excellency at once complied with the above request, and kindly favoured me with a copy of his telegraphic instructions, of which the following is a translation:—

"To the Kaïmakam, Stroumnitza. "*Salonica, September* 29.

"Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General informs me that some of the inhabitants of Stroumnitza who have embraced the Protestant faith have on that account been persecuted by the Greek Archbishop, and have been imprisoned through the instrumentality of the Local Government, mentioning in particular one of them, a man of the name of Tané, who at the present moment is in gaol. He requests me to put a stop to this state of things.

"Seeing that conduct which is directly opposed to the free and unshackled exercise of religious convictions is altogether unjustifiable, should any man be in prison for such a reason as this (*i.e.*, on religious grounds), I demand his instant release, and a full explanation of the affair.

(Signed) "HASSAN TAHSIN, *Vali.*"

In the meantime, the Rev. Mr. Jenney returned to Stroumnitza to attend personally to the matter, and the day after his arrival there I received a telegram

from him, informing me that Tané was still detained in prison. I thereupon addressed a further representation to the Governor-General, in reply to which his Excellency informed me that the Sub-Governor of Stroumnitza had reported that the individual in question was imprisoned, not on religious grounds, but because he made use of offensive language to the Greek Archbishop, and that he (the Sub-Governor) had no power to interfere in a case which was before the Local Court.

I inclose translated copies of the above correspondence (Nos. 3 and 4).

On receipt of the Governor-General's letter I called upon him, and got him to address a communication on the subject to the Inspector of Tribunals, Houssein Sadr-ed-deen Effendi, an upright and liberal-minded man, which communication I presented myself to that official, who, upon my explaining to him all the circumstances of the case, then and there wrote out a telegram for the President of the Court of First Instance at Stroumnitza, urging him to release Tané, and calling for a Report on the case.

The following is a translation of the above telegram:—

"The President of the Bedayet (Court of First Instance), Stroumnitza.

"*Salonica, October* 6, 1881.

"I am given to understand from some correspondence which has passed between the Governor-General and the Kaïmakam of Stroumnitza, that some persons have been put under arrest on a charge of using offensive language to the Greek Archbishop of that town. I have also been informed that a certain Tané has been in prison on this charge for eleven days.

"Seeing that it is not irregular* or proper that people should be imprisoned on such a charge without trial or sentence, if the statement I have received be correct I urge the immediate release of this man Tané, and conformity with the legal procedure in carrying through the case. At the same time, I should wish for a Report of how the matter stands as soon as possible.

(Signed) "Houssein Sadr-ed-deen,
"*Inspector of Justice.*"

With a view to lose no time I took the above telegram to the telegraph office, and saw it wired off. This was late on Thursday evening, the 6th instant; the following day the man was released.

I am greatly indebted to the Governor-General and the Inspector of Tribunals for the very courteous and prompt manner in which they have carried out my suggestions in this affair, and I told them I would not fail to report my sense of their conduct to your Excellency.

As, however, I gather from the missionary, Jenney, and from other sources, that the Greek clergy and community of Macedonia are determined to give "no rest or repose" to the natives who embrace Protestantism, I would suggest that the Sublime Porte should be moved to take some notice of the unjustifiable proceedings of the Archbishop and authorities of Stroumnitza in the above case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

The Rev. E. M. Jenney to Consul-General Blunt.

Dear Sir, *Salonica, October* 11, 1881.

MAY I be permitted to solicit your careful consideration of the following statements?

Through the private reading of the Scriptures, unaided by the presence of any missionary, or any other human agency than booksellers, a number of men in Stroumnitza were led to embrace the faith called "Evangelical," or Protestant. This work was gradual, covering many years. So strong had this Protestant element become, that the Greek Bishop of Stroumnitza became alarmed. His first effort was to accuse Messrs. Stavri and Boshen of being insurrectionists, hoping

* *Qy.* regular.

that, should he exile these leaders, fear would keep his flock in check. After a year's confinement in Salonica and Constantinople, through the interposition of Her Britannic Majesty's Consuls and others, they were set at liberty. These men, on being set free, held services in Stroumnitza, and many more believed in the Protestant faith. The Greek Bishop publicly announced in church, some seven or eight weeks ago, that he gave permission to the wife of any man who attended Protestant services to divorce her husband, and a like permission to the husband of any woman should his wife attend Protestant services. The wife of one, Tané, was induced by the Bishop to leave her husband, he (the Bishop) promising a divorce. On the morning of the 9th September (o. s.) said Tané was taken by force to the Bishop's head-quarters, and the following is the coversation, as given to me in writing under Tané's own signature. The statement is directed to me, and translated is as follows:—

"Mr. Jenny, behold! I give you my work more particularly. On the 9th September (o. s.), as my wife was at the house of the Bishop early, as I was at work in my shop, there came from the Metropolia M. Ekonomo alone, and said, 'Come to the Metropolia, for your wife wishes to divorce you.' But I answered, 'I am not of the Metropolia, neither can I go.' After fifteen minutes another man came with a zaptieh and took me to the Usbashi, and from there to the Bishop at the Metropolia. As they led me into the meeting, one said to me, 'Why do you not kiss the Bishop's hand?' I replied, 'I do not kiss the Bishop's hand.' The Bishop said, 'Your wife has a suit against you for you to divorce her.' I replied, 'I cannot divorce my wife. Why should I divorce her?' The Bishop replied, 'Because you do not go to church.' (I do not go to church.) 'Because you do not kiss "echonas," and do not light candles.' I replied, 'I do not light candles or kiss "echonas."' 'You do not recognize the Church?' 'I do not know what Church. To us Christ is the Church.' The Bishop said, 'Have you come here to judge us?' and jumped up and told the zaptieh to take me to gaol.

(Signed) "Tané Stamen."

The zaptieh, in private conversation with others (not with me), said that this was the language used.

The helpless Protestants sent on for me, and I arrived two days after Tané's imprisonment in Stroumnitza. I at once demanded the release of Tané until condemned by legal trial, and the Kaïmakam released him at once. Sabbath evening a zaptieh came from the Usbashi for Tané, but I refused to give him up without an order for Tané's arrest from the Kaïmakam, for the zaptieh said that this was an order from the Bishop. Monday morning the zaptieh told me that the Kaïmakam wished to talk with Tané, so I, of course, did not oppose. But this was false, the Kaïmakam having left the city early that morning. The Usbashi, through this foul means, secured Tané, and without a word threw him into prison. The following Wednesday, the Government paying no attention to me, being perfectly helpless when I spoke, but all-powerful when the Bishop gave an order, I came to Salonica and presented my case to you, which you heartily attended to, and was so successful that in a few hours secured an order for freedom to Protestants and the release of Tané.

I returned to Stroumnitza, but found Tané in gaol, the Government claiming that the case had gone before the judicial authorities and must take its course. Security was refused for the prisoner. Last Friday I received a telegram from you announcing that Tané was free, and in two hours he was let out of prison.

The Usbashi, however, refused to obey the order from Salonica unless he, Tané, secured security that he would not leave the city. Mr. Stavri was his security. On Sabbath evening Mr. Stavri was told to sign a "sennett" that, should Tané be condemned on trial, he, Stavri, would pay the Bishop 4 liras for disrespect to the Bishop. I refused to allow this. Then they threatened to throw Tané in prison. I warned them to count the cost.

Thus matters stood yesterday, the 10th instant. Last Thursday the Bishop and his corps of advisers boasted that the English Consul was helpless, and could not secure the freedom of Tané. In their triumphant glee they boasted that they had planned for the exile of Mr. Stavri as a rebel. Tané was to be exiled as a corrupter of the peace after he had lain ninety-one days in gaol for his impudence towards the Bishop. In short, the Bishop's councillors were planning to wipe out

Protestantism with one grand sweep. The Bishop and his party were happy, and the Protestants trembled.

Your telegram reversed the sadness and joy. Last Sabbath the Bishop secured the names of twelve men who declare that Tané did insult the Bishop, and again the Greek party boasted that they had great deeds to perform.

Since you have so grandly aided thus far, may I ask you to finish this work which the Lord has given you to do.

1. Please secure an order from the Pasha for the recognition of the rights of Protestants in this vilayet. That no one be allowed to interfere with any one holding the Protestant faith as far as concerns their faith.

2. That all preachers and teachers of the so-called Protestant faith should be unmolested.

3. All booksellers sent out by Protestant Societies shall have freedom in selling the Scriptures and religious books. That three special permissions be granted the booksellers now in the field; I refer to Kesto, the man from Uskup, and our man, Nikola Petrov. That the authorities of the different cities and towns of this vilayet be required, on application, to give a special burial-ground to any Protestant or Protestants residing in that particular place.

Thanking you heartily for your timely and very effectual aid, and praying that the Lord, who has promised to aid the oppressed, may assist you in securing freedom for Protestants in Macedonia, I remain, &c.

(Signed) E. M. JENNEY,
Missionary of the American Board for Eastern Turkey.

Inclosure 3 in No. 56.

Consul-General Blunt to Tahsin Pasha.

(Translation.) *Salonica, September* 29, 1881.

IT having been recently reported that some of the inhabitants of Stroumnitza who had embraced the Protestant faith were persecuted on that account by the Greek Archbishop, who in fact had had them imprisoned through the instrumentality of the Local Government, an American missionary residing at Monastir went to Stroumnitza to make inquiries into the matter, and, if possible, to put a stop to the persecution.

He has found on examination, and informed me, that this report was correct, and that a man of the name of Tané was then actually undergoing imprisonment.

As these proceedings involve a violation of religious freedom, I beg you will promptly give directions telegraphically that they be put a stop to.

Inclosure 4 in No. 56.

Consul-General Blunt to Tahsin Pasha.

(Translation.) *Salonica, October* 2, 1881.

YOUR Excellency will remember that on the 29th instant I addressed an official communication to you relative to the persecution and imprisonment inflicted by the Greek Archbishop of Stroumnitza on some persons who had embraced the Protestant faith, and mentioning more especially the case of a certain Tané, who was at that time in prison, asking for his release, and begging that this system of persecution might be promptly put a stop to. On the receipt of my letter your Excellency communicated with the Kaïmakam of Stroumnitza, giving him instructions on the subject.

I was therefore much astonished at receiving the inclosed telegram from the American missionary, Mr. Jenney, who went to Stroumnitza last Saturday to attend to the matter, in which he states that nothing has been done, and that the said Tané is at the present moment in gaol. As the neglect of the Kaïmakam of Stroumnitza to comply with your orders is prejudicial to the early settlement of this affair, I hasten to request your Excellency to repeat your orders to that official for the prompt release of Tané, and I hope I shall not have occasion to trouble you on this subject again.

Inclosure 5 in No. 56.

Tahsin Pasha to Consul-General Blunt.

(Translation.) *Salonica, October* 5, 1881.

ON the receipt of your esteemed note of the 29th September, referring to the persecution by the Greek Archbishop of Stroumnitza of certain of the inhabitants of that town who had made profession of the Protestant faith, and of their being imprisoned through the instrumentality of the Local Government, and stating in particular the case of a certain Tané whom you alleged to be at that moment in gaol, and concluding by your expressing a hope that I would put a stop to all such persecution for the future, and at the same time order the release of Tané,—on the receipt of your letter, I repeat, I communicated with the Kaïmakam of Stroumnitza. It appears from the reply which I have received that this man is not in prison for any matters connected with religion, but for having made use of offensive language to the Archbishop. He was imprisoned by an order of the Court of First Instance after a preliminary investigation by the "Juge d'Instruction."

This being so, the case is under the immediate control of the Law Courts.

No. 57.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 17, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a letter from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla relative to the state of the Sandjaks of Drama and Serres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Dr. Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Cavalla, le 9 Octobre,* 1881.

EN réponse à votre dépêche, j'ai l'honneur de vous donner les informations suivantes :—

Dans le Caza de Cavalla, la sûreté publique est parfaite.

Dans le Sandjak de Drama, en général, la tranquillité est parfaite aussi, mais, de temps en temps, on a eu à déplorer des attentats à la propriété et des vols isolés; mais non par des bandes organisées.

Dans les Cazas de Nevrocop, Djuma, et autres localités du Sandjak de Serres qui se rapprochent des confins Bulgars, les vols et les assassinats seraient à l'ordre du jour.

Voici l'extrait d'une lettre de mon correspondant de Nevrocop :—

"Les nouvelles sur la sûreté publique de ce caza ne sont pas agréables. On entend de tous les côtés que des vols et assassinats, et nos Tribunaux sont tout à fait paralysés. Les honnêtes gens espèrent que le Gouvernement s'empressera de réparer cet état de choses."

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) Dr. PECCHIOLI.

No. 58.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 17, 1881.

WITH reference to Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney's despatch of the 1st instant relative to the state of insecurity in Epirus, and suggesting that Her Majesty's

subjects intending to visit that province for their pleasure or business should be warned against doing so, I have sent Mr. Blakeney a telegram, of which the inclosed is a copy, reminding him that he has already been instructed to warn British subjects who may visit districts infested by brigands that Her Majesty's Government will not be responsible in the event of their being captured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Consul-General Blunt to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, October* 16, 1881.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 1st instant, my despatch of the 10th August authorizes you to warn British subjects visiting Epirus that Her Majesty's Government will in no manner be responsible should they be captured by brigands. Telegraph instructions in above sense to Consular Agent, Kypriotis.

No. 59.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 18, 1881.

THE inclosed letters from Monastir, as published in the "Levant Herald" of the 22nd ultimo and 14th instant, confirm the information I furnished in my Report of the 7th instant on the subject of the prevalence of brigandage in that part of Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Letter from Monastir published in the "Levant Herald" of September 22, 1881.

Monastir, September 14, 1881.

THE captive of Katarrachia, of whom I made mention in my last letter, has been set at liberty some ten days ago near Veria, against a ransom of £ T. 10 paid by his father, who was obliged to follow up the band at a distance in order to recover his son.

On Sunday, the 11th instant, four Mussulmans, lying in wait on the road which leads for Monastir to Crouchovo, attacked a caravan composed of some thirty men who were coming to this town. One man was killed, and another seriously wounded. The reason assigned for this wanton outrage, it is stated, was a desire on the part of the assailants to try the range of their rifles.

The state of affairs is no better in the Province of Castoria. The band of brigands commanded by Broufo, not content with having carried off four prisoners some days since from the village of Bogatzico, has just sent in a letter to the inhabitants demanding fifteen costumes embroidered in gold, and threatening, in case the demand is not complied with, the destruction of the village by fire. The unfortunate villagers have sent this letter to the authorities of Castoria, begging them to give their case the most earnest attention. But the latter are unable to render any assistance, not having any military force at their disposition.

Another band invaded Touzeli, a village situated in the district of Chroupista, and carried off into captivity five Christians, of whom two were natives and the other three from Bourboutzico. One of the latter, having succeeded in eluding the vigilance of his guards, made his escape and fled to the town of Castoria. There, however, contrary to all expectation, he was put under arrest and closely examined as to how he had managed to make his escape from the hands of the brigands.

It is reported that the bands of Caloghero, of Katarachia, and of Caramoum have lately been seen passing through the district of Conresta, taking with them six prisoners, of whom four are Mussulmans and two Christians.

With regard to Davéli, some say that he has given himself up to the Commission for the Delimitation of the Turco-Greek Frontier, and that he has been appointed by it Kirserdar of the territory in Thessaly not ceded, and that there is associated with him another brigand named Stoupa. But, according to others, after a violent combat near Janina with the regular troops, he has directed his march towards Conitza.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Letter from Monastir published in the "Levant Herald" of October 14, 1881.

Monastir, September 28, 1881.

ON Thursday last, the 22nd instant, his Excellency the Mushir Ahmed Eyoub Pasha, the Vali of this province, left Monastir for Kaliari, whence he is to visit the districts of Kastoria, Kozan, Anasselitza, and Servia. It is to be hoped that the journey undertaken by his Excellency to these places will be efficacious in the re-establishment of order and public tranquillity, and that his presence will stir up the local authorities to be more assiduous and energetic in the repression of brigandage.

The contemplated tour of inspection is very necessary, and the Government must be congratulated for having taken these measures in order to re-establish public security, which has latterly become almost extinct, especially in South Macedonia. Unfortunately, the news received from Kastoria confirms the reports as to the state of the country. Bands of highwaymen continue to plunder the mountain countries, and small bands of Albanians prey upon the lowlands. These last surpass the others in audacity, for large parties of them have advanced close to the gates of the town of Kastoria. Bands of marauders in the village districts have imposed ransoms upon the Christian villages of Yamrovéni, Zetista, Yissiraki, Sinitzi, and others. They have captured six of the well-to-do inhabitants of Nestramis and three of those of Moresintza, of which village they had previously killed a Christian and wounded the Albanian tithe collector for having reported their arrival in the neighbourhood. From Zambourdéni two Mussulman women were carried off. Three peasants followed the band out of curiosity to ascertain the fate of the women, but the band cured the peasants of their inquisitiveness by killing one of them, and then releasing the captive ladies.

Threatening letters have been received by several well-to-do inhabitants, as also by the Beys, of Kastoria. The brigands demand supplies of clothing, boots, Martini rifles, cartridges, and sulphate of quinine. Kiazim Bey has been asked for 1,500 Martini cartridges, of which, it is said, he has felt compelled to send a part, fearing that, if he did not do so, all his flocks of sheep and goats upon Mount Grammos would be "lifted." The local authorities, it appears, got wind of the affair, but as they could not protect the flocks from the threatened raid, thought it prudent not to prevent the supply of cartridges being sent.

Besides the battalion of Redifs established in the town of Kastoria, a half-battalion of the line has also arrived there and has been placed in proper positions; but, until last week, no conflict had occurred between the troops and the brigands except a skirmish with two Albanian bands, in which two brigands fell.

Last week, an ambuscade of miscreants near the village of Dragoshe, situated between Florina and Monastir, killed the priest of that village whilst on his way back to it with others of the village. The murder of this ecclesiastic, a good and revered person, has caused great emotion in this town, and it is to be hoped that the local authorities of Monastir will bestir themselves to discover the murderers.

No. 60.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 29, 1881.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 15th August last, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter which has been addressed to Mr. Gladstone by M. Paschides on behalf of the Christian merchants of Janina now

imprisoned in Constantinople,* and I have to request that your Excellency will inform me whether the sentences passed on these persons have been commuted in accordance with the assurances given by Assim Pasha on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 61.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 21, 1881.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to state that Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica has furnished me with a copy of his despatch to your Lordship of the 7th instant on the subject of brigandage in Macedonia.

I lost no time in communicating the substance of this Report to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, and called his Excellency's special attention to Mr. Blunt's observations as to the necessity of taking immediate steps for the formation of an efficient gendarmie, with a view to the re-establishment of order and tranquillity in the province.

Assim Pasha replied that he would take an early opportunity of exposing the situation to the Prime Minister, and would endeavour to persuade his Highness to write at once on the subject to the Governor-General of Salonica.

His Excellency then observed that the prevalence of brigandage in some districts to the north of Salonica was chiefly owing to the connivance of the Bulgarian frontier authorities, who allowed Bulgarian brigand bands, when pursued by Turkish troops, to enter the Principality unmolested. The Sublime Porte had addressed a strong remonstrance against these proceedings to the Bulgarian Government, but with no effect.

Assim Pasha concluded by saying that it would be most gratifying to the Porte if I would instruct Her Majesty's Consul-General at Sophia to make some representation to the Bulgarian Government on this subject.

Although I did not consider myself justified in requesting Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia to make any representations to the Bulgarian Government in the sense desired by Assim Pasha, I have communicated to Mr. Lascelles Assim Pasha's remarks, and have asked him to furnish me with his opinion as to the accuracy of his Excellency's statement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 62.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October 21, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with one inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of an outrage which has been perpetrated by brigands at Colivalar, an estate owned by Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons, British subjects established at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, October 21, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a letter of Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons, British subjects established at this place, giving

* M. Paschides, October 1, 1881 (to Mr. Gladstone).

an account of a serious outrage which was perpetrated on the 17th instant at their farm of Colivalar, in the district of Salonica.

I have addressed a communication on the subject to the Governor-General of Salonica, and asked him to take proper measures for the protection of Messrs. Abbott's property.

The fact that the Governor-General had not heard of the occurrence before this morning, when my letter was placed in his hands, shows how negligently the local police performs its duties.

Colivalar, the scene of the outrage, is in the immediate vicinity of the railway and police stations of Amatovo, barely two hours distant from Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

Messrs. Abbott and Sons to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Salonique, le 20 Octobre, 1881.*

L'INTENDANT de nos Tchifliks Amatovo et Colivalar vient nous avertir d'un crime qui a eu lieu dans notre Tchiflik de Colivalar.

Lundi, 17 courant, vers 1 heure du soir, une bande de dix individus se sont présentés dans la maison d'un de nos fermiers, nommé Simsor, à Colivalar, et après avoir sommé ses fils de leur dire où leur père avait son argent, les lièrent les mains derrière le dos ainsi qu'à un tailleur de Calkish, qui se trouvait là, les enfermèrent dans une chambre et se rendirent auprès du vieux Simsor, le frappèrent plusieurs fois avec un couteau, ainsi qu'un de ses voisins, nommé Stanko, qui se trouvait là. Pendant ce temps, le fils de Simsor, ainsi que le tailleur, parvinrent à s'échapper et allèrent à Amatovo prévenir les Sémens, qui se rendirent immédiatement sur le lieu; mais les malfaiteurs s'étant aperçus que les fils s'étaient échappés, ils sont partis après avoir enlevé tous les bijoux et les objets de quelque valeur qu'ils ont pu trouver. On craint pour la vie des blessés. Le tailleur a reconnu un de ces malfaiteurs, du nom Saleyman Cavas, à la baraque de la station du chemin de fer à Amatovo. La femme de Stanko et sa fille disent aussi reconnaître trois autres de ces malfaiteurs, mais elles ignorent leurs noms.

Nous venons vous prier, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien insister auprès des autorités locales pour qu'un exemple soit fait, et qu'une juste punition soit infligée à ces malfaiteurs, le crime faisant un grand tort à nos intérêts; car tous nos fermiers veulent quitter nos fermes, disant que leur vie n'est plus en sûreté.

Nous avons, &c.
(Signé) R. ABBOTT AND SON.

No. 63.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October 24, 1881.*

IN continuation of my Reports on the prevalence of brigandage in Macedonia, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that official intelligence has been received here to the effect that the brigand chief, Katzaro, captured on the 18th instant, and carried off to the mountains, two well-to-do inhabitants (Dimitri Koptseli and Basil Koutlo) of Colindro, in district of Caterina. He demands a heavy ransom for their release.

I inclose extracts from the "Cossova" and the "Pharos of Macedonia" newspapers, furnishing information of further outrages in the interior.

The "Cossova" is the official organ of the vilayet of that name.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Extract of a Paragraph from the "Cossova" of October 19, 1881.

(Translation.)

THE daring perpetrators of the various acts of robbery, murder, and mutilation which took place in the Caza of Geilan, and which recently have been reported from the spot where they are most rife, have been pursued.

With a view to insure the tranquillity of the district, and for the purpose of protecting it, Moussa Agha, senior captain of a line battalion, was detached on special duty, with his company, to the above-named caza, receiving the co-operation of Mustapha Agha, a sergeant of the police of Pristina, with ten men. The captain started off for the Nahié of Upper Morava, while the sergeant visited that of Lower Morava. In the course of their search they came on and surprised, in the village of Velouglova, two notorious ruffians, viz., Edriss, of that village, and his companion, a man of the name of Suleiman.

The sergeant, Mustapha, as well as the Moukhtar, and members of the Council of Elders of Velouglova, summoned these men to surrender, but they refused, and prepared for armed resistance; and we now learn from the official Report of the Chief of Police that, at the end of a fight which lasted four or five hours, Edriss and Suleiman were killed, and that a policeman, called Urkuplu Ibrahim, has been wounded in the back by a bullet fired by one of the brigands.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Extract from a Letter from Alistrati, dated October 10, 1881, as published in the Greek Newspaper "Pharos of Macedonia" of October 22, 1881.

(Translation.)

AS regards public security, last week some brigands, whose names are not known, seized a Turk near a stream named Kemer, about an hour's distance from Alistrati, and after tying his hands, they stripped him of all that he had. After a captivity of seven hours they released him. The victim's name is Hadji Iboush.

The diminution of activity on the part of the brigands in this neighbourhood is owing in a great measure to the untiring pursuit of them which is continually kept up by Sergeant Demir Agha, who is stationed here with twenty men.

This man does very great honour to the Imperial Government by the line of conduct he has pursued in the matter—conduct which, we believe, will gain well-merited reward for this praiseworthy officer. But we regret to say that yesterday some brigands, number unknown, from what are called "comitadjis," entered the village of Tratzova, in this district, and committed the following outrage:—They ransacked from top to bottom three Christian houses, not even leaving their inmates the clothes on their backs. They then murdered the village guard, an Albanian, a fine old fellow of the name of Dalib Agha (a Mahommedan), cutting his body to pieces. The panic in the village has become general, and respectable persons are contemplating emigration.

Raise your voice, Mr. Editor, until it reach our rulers, so that, becoming anxious, they may provide for the safety of their children of (district) Zihna, the most loyal in the Empire.

No. 64.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October 29, 1881.*

ON the receipt of Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney's despatch of the 1st instant, I made a strong representation to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign affairs on the subject of the prevalence of brigandage in Epirus, and particularly called his Excellency's attention to that portion of Mr. Blakeney's despatch that related to the decapitation of one of the seven schoolboys carried off by brigands from the village of Isgar.

His Excellency promised that he would give the matter his most earnest attention, and caused immediate orders to be sent to the local authorities to spare no effort to disperse the numerous bands of brigands who render life and property so insecure in the interior of Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 65.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 1, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to state that on the receipt of Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch of the 15th ultimo (a copy of which has been forwarded by that gentleman to your Lordship) on the subject of the persecution to which the Protestant community at Stroumnitza are subjected, at the instigation of the Greek Archbishop at that place, I lost no time in bringing the facts of the case to the notice of the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In reply to my representations, his Excellency promised that he would address a remonstrance to the Greek Patriarchate against the attitude assumed by the Greek clergy towards the native Protestants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 66.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received November 10.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, October 29, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my Confidential despatch of to-day to the Earl of Dufferin relating to the misconduct of regular troops in the district of Zagori, as reported to me by Mr. Consular Agent Kypriotis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Confidential.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, October 29, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Mr. Kypriotis writes to me confidentially on the 12th instant as follows:—

"As a man and two women were proceeding on Friday last from their native village, Mazaraki, to Kato-Suthenú, Zagori, with two animals laden with onions for sale, they fell in with seven robbers, who made off with their animals. The former thereupon hastened to Kalmaki and gave information to the regular troops there, and an officer with four men immediately started in pursuit of the robbers, but when they reached a lonely spot the officer ordered the man to be tied, and the two women were then outraged, first by the officer and then by his men.

"The forty Circassians who were dispatched to Veltista to pursue the brigands who had perpetrated the outrage mentioned in a previous despatch behaved in a worse manner towards the unfortunate peasants than the brigands themselves. The result is that the peasantry frequently abstain from complaining to the authorities against the brigands, because they are afraid that they would have to suffer more from the soldiers."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 67.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October 29, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st instant on the subject of an outrage perpetrated at Colivalar, a farm of Messrs Robert Abbott and Sons, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch, and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to the Earl of Dufferin, reporting the result of an inquiry instituted by the authorities into the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 67.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, October 29, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st instant on the subject of an outrage perpetrated at Colivalar, a farm owned by Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons, British subjects established at Salonica, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Governor-General has instituted an inquiry into the matter.

The inclosed is a translated copy of the letter which I have received from his Excellency acquainting me with the result of the inquiry, and I now learn from Messrs. Abbott that two of the individuals implicated in the outrage have been apprehended and brought to Salonica to be tried before the local Criminal Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 67.

The Governor-General of Salonica to Consul-General Blunt.

(Translation.) *Salonica, October 23, 1881.*

I HAVE received your official note of the 21st instant relative to the incident which has occurred at Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons' farm at Colivalar.

According to the Report handed in by Abdi Bey, Colonel of the zaptieh force of the vilayet, who was officially deputed to proceed to the spot and investigate the matter, the perpetrators of this outrage are not members of "Comitas," an opinion which is indicated in your note, but merely inhabitants of Karasoulé, identified as follows:—

Mustapha ben Mehemet, watchman, stationed at sentry-box No. 14, on the upper side of the Ahmadli Railway-station, Kinprullili Suleiman ben Hassan, acting as armed escort and guard at the same station, and three others whose names are not known. It appears that these men broke into the house of Simsor Metro at the farm at Colivalar, whom they first bound and then beat. They then stole the upper part of a silver girdle belonging to his daughter Maro, as well as a gold "mahmoudié" and eight small gold coins. They then wounded a certain Starko in several places and stripped him of his coat, and finally they stole from a tailor, Georghi by name, seven pairs of coloured pantaloons, eight pelisses, four waistcoats, two bales of red prints, six bales of calico, from 200 to 300 piastres in money, and one or two guns. As both these men, the watchman and the cavass, deny having committed the robbery in question, the matter has been referred to the Public Prosecutor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HASSAN TAHSIN, *Vali of Salonica.*

No. 68.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October 31, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, reporting the steps which he has taken to warn British subjects in Epirus that Her Majesty's Government will not be responsible in the event of their being captured by brigands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Prevesa, October 22, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, on receipt of your telegram of the 16th instant, I telegraphed to Mr. Kypriotis to give the necessary warning to British subjects visiting Epirus. And, in order that there should be no misunderstanding in the matter, I forward to him by to-day's post copy of the following notice, which is now exhibited in this office:—

"*Notice.*

"Whereas brigandage prevails in the district of Epirus, notice is given to British subjects residing in or visiting the aforesaid district, that Her Majesty's Government will in no manner be responsible should they be captured by brigands."

(L.S.) "C. A. BLAKENEY, *Vice-Consul.*

"*British Vice-Consulate, Prevesa,*
"*October 18, 1881.*"

I avail myself of this opportunity to acquaint you that the Mutessarif addressed on the 18th instant a Circular note to the Consular Body to the following effect:—

"We have the honour to acquaint you that tranquillity prevails at present in these parts, and in order that this should be more firmly established, it is expedient that all travellers arriving here by land or by sea should be furnished with regular passports according to the forms in use. We therefore beg you will have the goodness to advise all the subjects of your Government to adhere to this order, for, on the contrary, we shall be compelled to act in accordance with the regulation on the subject."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 69.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 17, 1881.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 21st ultimo, reporting what has passed between your Excellency and Assim Pasha upon the subject of brigandage in Macedonia, and the measures necessary for its suppression, as described by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica; and I approve your Excellency's action in calling upon Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia for his opinion upon the remarks made by Assim Pasha as to the responsibility of the Bulgarian Government for the state of affairs complained of.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 70.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 10, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia, giving the answer of the Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs to Assim Pasha's statement, that the prevalence of brigandage in some districts to the north of Salonica was due to the connivance of the Bulgarian authorities, who allowed Bulgarian brigand bands when pursued by Turkish troops to enter the Principality unmolested.

I have communicated the substance of Mr. Lascelles' despatch to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Mr. Lascelles to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Sophia, November 5, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 22nd ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch to Lord Granville on the subject of brigandage in Macedonia.

I have called the attention of Mr. Vouleovitch to the statement made to your Excellency by Assim Pasha, that the prevalence of brigandage in some districts to the north of Salonica is due to the connivance of the Bulgarian frontier authorities, who allow Bulgarian brigand bands, when pursued by Ottoman troops, to enter the Principality unmolested.

Mr. Vouleovitch said that since he had been in office no case had occurred of Macedonian brigands taking refuge in Bulgarian territory, and he believed that none had taken place for more than a year. He said that as no means of official communication existed between the Principality and the Porte, it was impossible to come to an arrangement, which would otherwise have been an easy matter, with regard to the measures to be taken on the frontier in order to prevent the possibility of brigands taking refuge in Bulgaria.

In my despatch to Lord Granville of the 21st September last, I reported that Nihad Pasha had communicated to me the various proposals that had been made on this subject, and had informed me that the refusal of Mr. Voulcovitch to carry on negotiations with him would have the effect of preventing an arrangement being come to.

Nihad Pasha has now informed me that he is preparing a detailed Report upon the subject, which he has kindly promised to communicate to me as soon as he shall have finished it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 71.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received November 28.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, November 19, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to subjoin copy of Mr. Kypriotis' despatch, which I forward by same post to Lord Dufferin, relating to the treatment of prisoners at Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Janina, November 9, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the brigands who were brought here, as mentioned in a previous despatch, one of them named Ephthimio Braziotis, who died in prison without any medical assistance, and another named Nicolão Braziotis died on Sunday last in his dungeon, and bearing to his last breath the chain to which he was attached. When the body of the latter had to be removed the prisoners made a show of resistance, and proposed that the Consuls and the local authorities should witness the state they are in. According to information given me none of these brigands is allowed to see the light of the sun, which is, in my opinion, very cruel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 72.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 28.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 21, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Mr. Lascelles, inclosing a Memorandum drawn up by Nihad Pasha, the Ottoman Agent at Sophia, on the subject of brigandage on the Macedonian frontier.

Your Lordship will perceive that there is a wide difference between the statements contained in this Memorandum and those made by the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Mr Lascelles, as reported in the despatch from that gentleman, of which I had the honour to forward a copy to your Lordship in my despatch of the 10th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

Mr. Lascelles to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Sophia, November 12, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a Memorandum which Nihad Pasha has been kind enough to communicate to me, giving a detailed account of his negotiations with the Bulgarian Government, with the view of coming to an arrangement for the prevention of brigandage on the Macedonian frontier.

Nihad Pasha points out that the different Bulgarian Ministers, while professing to be animated with the best intentions, have invariably discovered pretexts for preventing an arrangement being come to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Report of Nihad Pasha on Brigandage in Macedonia.

A LA suite de l'institution de la Principauté de Bulgarie, composée de provinces détachées du complexe de l'Empire Ottoman, l'unité d'autorité pour maintenir l'ordre et la tranquillité en deçà et en delà de la nouvelle ligne de démarcation étant rompue, le brigandage a pu facilement éclore et prendre des proportions inquiétantes dans les provinces limitrophes. Bien que le Gouvernement Impérial ait pris de prime abord en sérieuse considération ces symptômes fâcheux, il ne voulait y voir que le mal fortuit de la nouvelle situation, et devait attendre

l'établissement d'une administration régulière dans la Principauté pour le combattre efficacement de commun accord.

Ainsi, déjà au commencement de l'année 1880, le Ministre Impérial des Affaires Étrangères a soulevé la question de l'entente à établir entre les autorités limitrophes Ottomanes et Bulgares, en vue des mesures à prendre en commun contre le brigandage, et M. Zancoff, qui avant son départ de Sophia en avait été saisi, a fait croire qu'il abonde parfaitement dans le sens des propositions du Gouvernement Impérial. De nouveau, à la date du 17 Avril, 1880, le Ministre Impérial a adressé à Nihad Pacha un télégramme pour l'informer que les Gouverneurs-Généraux de Kossovo, de Monastir, et de Salonique signalent continuellement à la Sublime Porte les déprédations commises dans ces provinces par des bandes de brigands, formées sur le sol de la Principauté, et pour lui prescrire d'en entretenir M. Zancoff, qui depuis était devenu Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, afin d'établir un accord avec le Gouvernement Princier pour combattre efficacement le fléau du brigandage qui désole les provinces susmentionnées.

Par son Rapport du 4 Mai, 1880, Nihad Pacha a rendu compte à son Excellence Sawas Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, du résultat des démarches qu'il avait faites auprès du Gouvernement Princier, en conformité avec l'ordre reçu. M. Zancoff l'avait assuré qu'il abonde toujours dans le sens de la proposition que le Ministre Impérial lui avait faite antérieurement, que les ordres seront donnés de nouveau aux autorités limitrophes Bulgares leur prescrivant de prêter concours aux autorités Ottomanes dans la poursuite des brigands. M. Zancoff avait, de plus, exprimé l'opinion que les brigandages signalés se produisaient à la suite de la circonstance accidentelle de l'agglomération à la proximité des frontières, des émigrés Bulgares de la Macédoine. Pour remédier à cet inconvénient, avait ajouté le Ministre, des mesures ont été prises pour les installer à l'intérieur de la Principauté. M. Zancoff était arrivé ainsi à la conclusion que comme le mal du brigandage n'était guère permanent, et ne provenait que de causes fortuites qui, par l'application des mesures susmentionnées, devront disparaître il ne serait, pour le moment, opportun de faire dans ce but une Convention analogue à celle que la Sublime Porte avait conclue avec la Grèce. Des démarches de Nihad Pacha, on le voit, n'ont obtenu qu'un résultat négatif. En prodiguant des assurances vagues, M. Zancoff ne voulait prendre aucun engagement positif à l'effet d'un accord à établir pour combattre le brigandage signalé.

Ainsi, dans une dépêche subséquente, du 20 Mai, 1880, adressée à Nihad Pacha, son Excellence Sawas Pacha persista à penser que le meilleur moyen pour extirper le brigandage serait l'établissement d'une entente entre les autorités limitrophes. A cet effet, le Ministre Impérial des Affaires Étrangères avait proposé au Gérant de l'Agence Princière à Constantinople, l'adoption d'un de trois modes de procéder, à savoir: instructions identiques à adresser aux autorités limitrophes par la Sublime Porte et l'Administration Princière; notes à échanger entre le Ministère Impérial et l'Agence de la Principauté, spécifiant les mesures à adopter sur les lieux; entente à établir entre les autorités Ottomanes et Bulgares de la frontière sur leur moyen d'action. Le Gouvernement Impérial estimait que sur cette base le but de la sollicitude commune sera facilement atteint. M. le Gérant de l'Agence Princière ayant promis au Ministère Impérial d'écrire dans ce sens à Sophia, Nihad Pacha avait reçu l'ordre d'y conformer son langage. A cet effet il a donné à M. Zancoff lecture de la dépêche susmentionnée, en relevant d'une part la pleine confiance que professe le Gouvernement Impérial pour le concours loyal de la Principauté dans le but commun, et en insistant d'autre part sur la nécessité et l'urgence de s'entendre sur l'adoption d'un des modes proposés, mais M. Zancoff, tout en protestant des meilleures intentions du Gouvernement Princier, se dérobait à prendre un engagement formel pour établir une entente de l'action commune.

Un acte grave de brigandage qui avait été commis quelque temps après sur le territoire Ottoman par une bande de brigands formée sur le sol de la Principauté, avait fourni une preuve saisissante de la nécessité et de l'urgence d'une entente que le Gouvernement Impérial avait proposé à l'Administration Bulgare pour combattre ce fléau. Un convoi d'émigrés Musulmans, parti d'Uskub pour retourner en Bulgarie et étant arrivé à Egir Palanka le 26 Juin, avait pris campement à une distance égale d'une heure et demie de cette ville et de la frontière Bulgare. Ce soir, à une heure après le coucher du soleil, il a été attaqué par une bande de soixante-dix à quatre-vingts brigands armés de fusils. Dans le démêlé dix émigrés ont été tués, treize blessés et un brigand mortellement atteint par un coup de hache, seule arme

que possédaient les émigrés. Les émigrés ont été dépouillés de presque tout leur bien; douze chevaux et trois paires de bœufs leur ont été enlevés.

Par la déposition des émigrés faite devant l'autorité d'Egir Palanka, comme par les aveux tant du bandit blessé que d'un autre bandit, qu'une patrouille de poste militaire Turc de la frontière, faisant ronde à l'aube du jour, a pu saisir, il a été constaté que le coup avait été fait par une bande de brigands formée sur le sol de la Principauté. Les émigrés, poursuivant la route douloureuse du rapatriement et arrivés à Kustendil, avait bien reconnu trois de leurs chevaux enlevés et les avaient réclamés, mais l'autorité Bulgare de l'endroit leur avait déclaré qu'elle devait les retenir comme *corpus delicti* pour instruire l'enquête. Depuis, les chevaux reconnus n'ont pas été restitués aux propriétaires et les brigands n'ont pas pu être découverts.

Nihad Pacha, informé de ces faits par les émigrés arrivés à Sophia, et par une communication du Gouverneur-Général de Kossovo, en avait entretenu M. Zancoff pour demander une rigoureuse enquête contre les détenteurs des chevaux volés, afin de découvrir les brigands sur ces indices positifs. M. Zancoff avait assuré Nihad Pacha qu'il n'en avait reçu aucune information de la part des autorités Bulgares, mais qu'il adressera des ordres en conséquence à Kustendil. Il avait exprimé le regret de ce que l'autorité Turque d'Egir Palanka n'avait pas sans retard informé celle de Kustendil d'un si grave incident, tandis que naguère encore il s'était refusé à admettre le mode d'une entente à établir entre les autorités Ottomanes et Bulgares de la frontière, n'y étant pas autorisées, ne pouvaient agir de leur propre initiative.

La répugnance du Ministre Bulgare qui était à cette époque en fonction pour établir une entente d'action commune contre le brigandage, et son refus persistant d'accéder aux propositions que la Sublime Porte avait faites dans ce but, devait rendre stériles les efforts isolés des autorités Ottomanes.

Toutes les fois que des bandes de brigands formées sur le sol de la Principauté avaient été pourchassées par les postes des troupes Turques, ils repassaient la frontière, et ils y trouvaient asile et impunité. Les Commandants Militaires ayant signalé des actes de brigandage se renouvelant continuellement dans ces conditions, la Sublime Porte s'était empressée d'en saisir l'Agence Bulgare à Constantinople. Bien que cette Agence n'avait pas manqué de donner des assurances que des soins particuliers sont et seront observés de la part du Gouvernement Princier pour empêcher les incursions des brigands, cependant les faits prouvaient le contraire, et les Commandants Militaires ainsi que les Gouverneurs-Généraux ne discontinuaient pas de signaler de nouvelles incursions des brigands, et leur retraite assurée au delà de la ligne de démarcation.

En conséquence de cet état de choses, son Altesse le Premier Ministre avait adressé à Nihad Pacha une dépêche, en date du 7 Mai, 1881, pour lui communiquer en copie un télégramme adressé par le Commandant de Salonique au Ministère de la Guerre, concernant les actes de brigandage commis par des bandes Bulgares qui franchissent la ligne de démarcation, ainsi qu'une lettre du Gouverneur-Général de Kossovo, signalant les crimes et les déprédations perpétrés dans le village Lika, près de Malich, par des brigands de la Bulgarie, et les copies d'autres Rapports reçus précédemment et ayant trait aux incursions des brigands Bulgares.

Son Altesse le Premier Ministre relève qu'il résulte de la lecture de ces pièces que la principale cause qui entrave et empêche l'anéantissement du brigandage, est que les autorités Bulgares négligent de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher la libre entrée dans la Principauté des brigands poursuivis par les troupes Ottomanes, et que les assurances données à ce sujet par l'Agence Princière étaient contredites par les faits. En conséquence, son Altesse avait ordonné à Nihad Pacha de faire auprès du Gouvernement Princier des démarches pressantes en vue de provoquer des mesures efficaces pour obvier à cet état de choses intolérables et informer la Sublime Porte du résultat obtenu.

Nihad Pacha s'était empressé d'entretenir le Général Ehrnrooth, chargé à cette époque des fonctions de Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, de la question grave du brigandage, objet de la communication susmentionnée de la Sublime Porte.

Le Général Ehrnrooth s'était montré tout disposé à prendre les arrangements nécessaires pour combattre ce fléau, qui malheureusement avait été si longtemps toléré au grand préjudice tant matériel que moral des provinces limitrophes. Par sa note verbale du 2 Juillet, en rappelant à Nihad Pacha les entretiens qu'ils avaient eus sur l'intérêt qu'il y aurait pour les populations Turque et Bulgare de chercher à établir un bon *modus vivendi* sur la frontière de la Macédoine, le Général

avait communiqué au Commissaire Impérial un extrait des instructions données aux Délégués Bulgares en vue de concerter avec les Délégués Serbes les dispositions policières à observer sur la frontière, et avait engagé à cette occasion Midhat Pacha d'examiner si quelques-unes des mesures y indiquées ne pourraient trouver leur application dans la zone limitrophe de la Macédoine et de la Bulgarie. Mais au grand regret de tous les vrais amis de la Principauté, qui n'ont en vue que sa prospérité et le fonctionnement régulier de son Gouvernement, le Général Ehrnrooth avait quitté dans l'intervalle le pays, et la solution de la question poursuivie par le Gouvernement Impérial avait dû subir un nouveau retard.

Néanmoins, Nihad Pacha n'avait pas manqué de renouveler auprès de M. Stoïloff, le remplaçant provisoire du Général Ehrnrooth au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, les démarches nécessaires en vue d'arriver à une entente d'une action commune contre le mal latent du brigandage.

Par sa note verbale du 28 Juillet, 1881, le Commissaire Impérial avait recommandé cette question importante à la sérieuse considération du Ministre Princier, et lui avait fait remarquer que les meilleures intentions et les assurances données à ce sujet par le Gouvernement Princier à la Sublime Porte sont restées et devaient rester stériles tant qu'un arrangement, une entente positive dans le sens des propositions faites antérieurement par la Sublime Porte, ne soit établi entre le Gouvernement Impérial et le Gouvernement Princier. En attendant qu'une telle entente soit établie, Nihad Pacha avait prié M. Stoïloff de faire prendre des mesures afin que dorénavant des bandes de brigands ne puissent pas passer la ligne de démarcation, et que les brigands qui, poursuivis, cherchent à la repasser, soient arrêtés et punis.

La persévérance incessante de Nihad Pacha n'avait pas obtenu cette fois encore un meilleur résultat. Bien que M. Stoïloff, s'inspirant des sentiments d'équité et de justice de Son Altesse le Prince et de son souci vigilant pour préserver la dignité et l'honneur de la jeune Principauté, ne pouvait qu'accéder aux propositions de la Sublime Porte, il a quitté le Ministère sans qu'aucune mesure fut prise pour enrayer l'extension du brigandage.

Néanmoins, à la date du 18 Août, 1881, le Ministère Impérial des Affaires Étrangères avait adressé à Nihad Pacha une nouvelle dépêche, lui prescrivant d'attirer de nouveau la sérieuse attention du Gouvernement Princier sur le brigandage signalé par de récents rapports de son Excellence Dervish Pacha, Commandant Militaire en Macédoine. Il résulte, en effet, de ces rapports, relève la dépêche susmentionnée, que le brigandage a pris dans ces derniers temps des proportions considérables, les bandits, sûrs de l'impunité dont ils sont entourés de l'autre côté de la ligne de démarcation, continuent à exercer leurs exploits plus fréquemment que jamais, et avec une audace de plus en plus accentuée. Vol, pillage, meurtre, tels sont les traits caractéristiques d'une situation qui ne laisse pas que de présenter des dangers sérieux.

Le Rapport de son Excellence Dervish Pacha est instructif; il relève que les exploits des bandes de brigands formées sur le sol de la Principauté s'exercent dans les districts dépendant de l'arrondissement d'Uskub, surtout du côté de Stroumdja; que les brigands poursuivis par les postes militaires trouvent protection au delà de la ligne de démarcation, et qu'ainsi le plus grand déploiement de troupes ne pourra donner des résultats efficaces; que d'après informations et contestations le centre pour la formation et l'expédition des bandes de brigands est à Kustendil, et que ces agissements ne peuvent pas être ignorés des autorités locales. Bien que les autorités Ottomanes aient fait des démarches auprès des autorités Bulgares pour demander leur concours à la répression du brigandage, elles sont restées sans effet. Les habitants de la Macédoine exaspérés par les déprédations, les crimes, et l'impunité des brigands, ont présenté cinq requêtes collectives constatant les faits susmentionnés, et demandant de former des bandes de volontaires pour les opposer aux bandes de brigands, pour leur donner la chasse et pour les poursuivre au delà des limites de démarcation. Son Excellence Dervish Pacha sachant bien que le Gouvernement Impérial ne pourraient admettre ces moyens d'action de la justice populaire suggère à la Sublime Porte de faire demander au Gouvernement Princier d'établir sur des points convenables de la frontière des postes militaires à l'instar de ceux que les Commandants des troupes Ottomanes ont eu soin d'installer de l'autre côté de la ligne de démarcation, avec mission de rejeter les brigands, qui tenteraient de repasser en Bulgarie, sur les troupes leur donnant la chasse, et de les autoriser réciproquement de pénétrer dans ce but sur le territoire voisin des provinces limitrophes. En cas de refus, conclut son Excellence Dervish Pacha, la connivence

serait mise en lumière et la Sublime Porte pourrait prendre d'autres mesures, qu'un pareil cas exigerait.

Conformément à l'ordre contenu dans la dépêche susmentionnée du 13 Août, Nihad Pacha avait entretenu M. Voulcovitch sur la nécessité d'adopter d'urgence des mesures que le mal signalé du brigandage exige, et en avait fait un Rapport adressé au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères à la date du 10 Septembre. M. Voulcovitch, tout en contestant la compétence de Nihad Pacha à traiter cette question, vu qu'il n'était pas muni d'un mandat spécial, reconnaissant et le mal et la nécessité d'une entente pour le combattre, mais il croyait que cette entente devrait être établie par une voie régulière à Constantinople. M. Voulcovitch savait bien que cette voie régulière, la communication directe de l'Agence Bulgare avec le Ministère Impérial des Affaires Étrangères, ne fonctionnait guère, et en formulant cette exigence, il renouvelait sous une autre forme le refus de ses prédécesseurs à accéder aux propositions de la Sublime Porte. Cette fois le Ministre reconnaît bien la nécessité de l'entente, mais sous condition qu'elle soit établie par une voie régulière; pourtant, quand cette voie régulière fonctionnait, les Ministres du Gouvernement Princier trouvaient inopportun de l'établir. Il est très instructif d'étudier ces évolutions: la répugnance d'établir une entente d'action commune contre le brigandage s'affirme toujours, et si M. Voulcovitch l'admet présentement, sous la condition précitée, on serait tenté de croire qu'il n'a pas à cœur autant la répression du brigandage que d'exercer par ce moyen une pression sur le Gouvernement Impérial pour faire accepter les prétentions d'une portée politique que l'Agence Bulgare soutient à Constantinople.

En réponse au dernier Rapport du Commissaire Impérial, son Excellence Assim Pacha lui avait adressé à la date du 13 Octobre, 1881, une récente dépêche pour l'engager à renouveler des démarches d'une manière énergique et à réagir contre les mauvaises dispositions qui se manifestent à Sophia. Il y est relevé que la situation empire chaque jour davantage, que le brigandage menace de compromettre sérieusement la sécurité de la population voisine de la ligne de démarcation. Les deux Rapports y joints du Département de la Guerre, avec leurs annexes, signalant que les malfaiteurs font fréquemment leur apparition du côté d'Uskub et de Djourma, et ne discontinuaient pas d'y commettre des crimes, grâce aux facilités qu'ils trouvent en Bulgarie, Nihad Pacha avait attiré encore une fois de plus l'attention de M. Voulcovitch sur cet état de choses. Mais le Ministre s'était retranché dans le mutisme, en maintenant la condition ingénieuse de faire traiter cette question par la voie régulière à Constantinople, question à laquelle d'ailleurs il n'attachait qu'une médiocre importance, disant que le brigandage peut se produire partout. Nihad Pacha lui avait fait observer que le brigandage est partout un mal grave, mais qu'il acquiert *in casu* une gravité particulière par l'attitude des refus d'établir une entente que les Ministres du Gouvernement Princier persistent à vouloir observer, attitude si bien faite pour encourager le mal qu'il s'agit de combattre par une action combinée. Néanmoins, M. Voulcovitch n'avait pas cru devoir abandonner le parti pris contre lequel tous les raisonnements, tous les efforts, doivent rester sans effet. Telles sont les diverses phases par lesquelles la question du brigandage, et l'insistance de la Sublime Porte à établir une entente pour le combattre, à passé depuis deux ans sans aboutir à aucun résultat. Le Gouvernement Impérial se trouve ainsi devant l'alternative ou de forfaire à l'obligation de défendre ses habitants contre les exactions des brigands, ou de les poursuivre au delà de la ligne de démarcation du pays vassal, qui se soustrait obstinément à la règle ordinaire d'une entente que le mal signalé, que la sécurité et tranquillité communes des provinces voisines exigent.

Sophia, le 10 Novembre, 1881.

No. 73.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 5.*)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 25*, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to state that in reply to further representations which I have made to Assim Pasha on the subject of the Christian merchants of Janina imprisoned in Constan-

tinople, I have been again informed by his Excellency that it is not probable that the sentence pronounced against them will be carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 74.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 10.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November 22, 1881.*

IT appears from the inclosed translated statement, which I have received from a Greek source, that inquiries are being instituted into alleged insurrectionary proceedings at Mount Athos and other localities in the district of Cassandra.

These inquiries are more especiallya bout large numbers of rifled percussion guns and barrels of gunpowder which were landed two or three years ago by a Greek vessel commanded by a certain Captain Lazzaro.

It is said among the villagers of Cassandra that the Joanni Marino mentioned in the statement I have inclosed bought up the arms and ammunition, and secretly sold them to different parties to make a profit of them, and it is also stated that Captain Lazzaro was done away with in order that he should not at any time be able to apnear as a witness. At first it was said that the arrested individuals were carried on board the gun-vessel lying at Erysso and beaten, and that they were taken to Cavalla; but I am assured that they did not go to Cavalla, but were landed after one or two days' detention on board and released on bail.

Numerous arrests were effected at Erysso, Isvor, Ourmelia, and Polyghero. The Greek priest of Isvor, Pappa Dorotheos, Agapitos Dimitrin, of Ourmelia, and Maretti, of Polygheros, are included in the number, and many individuals, some of them Hellenic subjects, about whom the authorities have been making inquiries, have sought safety in flight. A certain M. Anghelaki, a Hellenic subject, who is working some chrome mines in Ourmelia, and has been long suspected by the Local Government of furthering traitorous and disloyal practices amongst the natives of Cassandra, has taken refuge in Thessaly.

It is also said that the authorities have discovered important documents in the house of the above-named Joanni Marino at Erysso, implicating several well-to-do Greeks of Salonica in treasonable proceedings.

Of course, it is impossible for me to say whether the persons arrested are really implicated or not. It is probable the priest of Isvor is more the tool of others. It is difficult, however, to judge, knowing, as I do, the cunning nature of the inhabitants of the Cassandra district; but I am inclined to believe, from all I hear, that most of the persons concerned in these proceedings were instigated not by feelings of patriotism, but by the base motive of plunder.

Be this as it may, I do not think that the present inquiries of the authorities are for the purpose of discovering any plot that may be brewing, but that they are directed towards finding out and prosecuting the parties who were concerned in preparing and instigating a rising in Macedonia in the event of war between Turkey and Greece.

In October 1880 I reported to your Lordship that such a rising was meditated, and I have no doubt that it would have burst out had the settlement of the Greek Frontier question been longer deferred.

Now that this important question has been satisfactorily disposed of, I venture to express the opinion that a policy of conciliation will be more conducive to the restoration of tranquillity and order in this province. A policy of mistrust and severity will perpetuate the state of unrest from which the country has so long suffered, and seriously interfere with the application of the domestic reforms the Porte is bound to make under the Treaty of Berlin.

The local authorities, to whom I have unofficially spoken in the above sense, appear disposed to let bygones be bygones, but can take no independent action in the matter, as the inquiries instituted in the district of Cassandra have been ordered by, and are carried out with the sanction of, the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Statement relative to Inquiries instituted into alleged Treasonable Acts in District of Cassandra.

(Translation.)

COLONEL MEHEMET BEY, Aide-de-camp to the Sultan, arrived here a few days ago, ostensibly for the purpose of instituting an inquiry into the conduct of the Government functionaries of this district, but in reality on a secret mission, on which he has been dispatched by His Majesty to various parts of Macedonia, and, amongst others, to the holy monasteries of Mount Athos, a measure which owes its adoption to Court intrigue and certain calumnious representations which have been made to His Majesty the Sultan concerning the Fathers Superior of the monasteries of Mount Athos and their sacred order. This officer had provided himself with a passport ("bouyouroulti") from the Governor-General addressed to the Kaïmakam of Athos, the seat of whose Government is Karnays, and, accompanied by Iskender Bey as interpreter, set out for his destination, the Holy Mount.

On arrival he visited several of the monasteries, in some of which, after inquiries, he discovered the existence of a small quantity of gunpowder and a few flintlocks, all of antique workmanship, destined exclusively for the use of the "gardes-champêtres" of the monasteries. He then demanded of the Holy Brotherhood a list containing the number and names of the monks and novices who are living in the monasteries and cells, and another setting forth the amount of arms and military stores they have there. The Representative Assembly of Athos very readily supplied the required lists, in the latter of which, containing the amount of arms and military stores, 448 arms of old-fashioned workmanship, 134 pistols, and 25 to 27 okes of gunpowder, were put down as existing in the various monasteries, lodges, and cells.

Iskender Bey, finding the list of monks as supplied to him to be defective, because it did not give, he maintained, the exact number of the Fathers of the Sacred Order of the Prophet Elias, while he found fault with the other list on the ground of its concealing the real number and amount of the arms and military stores found in the monasteries, returned both lists to the Representative Body, and then made every possible effort to compel the Fathers Superior to confess what he affirmed to be the actual amount of arms and military stores concealed at Mount Athos, and which, he declared, reliable information supplied to His Majesty the Sultan represented as considerable. In vain, the Fathers assured him that both lists were correct, and gave a faithful account both as to the number of monks and the amount of arms, protesting against the unjust and unfounded suspicions and insinuations of Mehemet Bey, for this officer now bade them show him the Imperial Firmans establishing the privileges of the Order of Mount Athos. The Representative Assembly resisted this demand, on the ground that the Imperial Firmans are deposited with their agents at Constantinople and Salonica; whereupon Mehemet Bey left Mount Athos, accompanied by his interpreter, after giving vent to sundry menacing expressions against the Fathers for their, by him, alleged concealment of the truth. He came here (Salonica), and during his short stay was in constant communication with his Sovereign by means of telegrams in cypher. The outcome of this secret correspondence was the dispatch from Constantinople of a man-of-war with a battalion of infantry to Eryssus, whither Mehemet Bey also betook himself, availing himself for that purpose of a small gun-vessel belonging to the local harbour service. He arrived at Eryssus on the 28th ultimo (November 10th), and, after summoning Hassan Effendi, the Major stationed at Pologzros, he proceeded on the day after his arrival, with the assistance of a detachment of about fifty men serving under the latter, to effect the arrest of sundry Christian Notables. The number of those arrested and their names have not yet transpired. The only really trustworthy information on this point is, that among the first to be arrested were Nicolius Papparyyros, adviser, and Nicolius Chrysoulas, a coffee-house keeper, both inhabitants of Eryssus. These men were carried off by the soldiers and put on board the man-of-war which had come there from Constantinople, and on which Mehemet Bey was passing the night. They were then and there mercilessly flogged and subjected to every kind of torture by order of Mehemet Bey, in order that they might be forced through ill-treatment into a confession, to extort which such inhuman measures were being taken by their prosecutors, as to the whereabouts of the spot on Mount Athos in which arms and military stores were

alleged to be concealed, and of the persons who are implicated in the landing and keeping of the same.

Besides these persons, Pappa Dorotheos, the priest of Isvor, was also arrested and put on his oath, in the presence of Mehemet Bey, in confirmation of the depositions made by him about this affair, depositions which were in no way pleasing to the Imperial Emissary.

Among those who have been persecuted in consequence of denunciations charging them with complicity in the landing and keeping of the arms and military stores is Joannes Marinos, of Eryssus, who was arrested here and carried off to Pologyros.

According to the latest news received from Eryssus, Mehemet Bey has left that place for Cavalla on board the man-of-war which we mentioned as being at his disposition, taking with him the battalion of infantry under his command, Pappa Dorotheos, the priest of Isvor, and four other Christians whom he had arrested at Eryssus, and whom he kept in confinement on board ship.

Salonica, November 4 (16), 1881.

No. 75.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 10.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November* 23, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a letter from Castoria relative to the proceedings of the military Courts at that place and at Corytza and Anaselitza, and the state of public feeling in those districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Extract from a Letter from Castoria, dated November 19, 1881.

(Translation.)

THE courts-martial recently established here and at Corytza and Anaselitza continue to arrest every peasant and townsman who is denounced by the informers as being connected by ties of relationship or affection with any member of the bands of brigands which have been already broken up. At first some people were of opinion that the object of the establishment of these courts-martial was to bring to justice and punish certain Beys suspected of giving secret encouragement to brigands. Recent occurrences, however, go to show that this was a delusion, for hitherto no Bey has been arrested, and of those persons who have been arrested, among whom are some deserters from the Ottoman army and a few contumacious eluders of justice, and who are now confined in some of the various gaols and inns, being held to bail and under police supervision, not a single one, at least here, has been put on his trial, and one or two have been set at liberty after a short examination. Among the latter is the priest Naoum, of the village of Konoplati. It has also been noticed that the members of the courts-martial are exercising as much forbearance towards the more needy and necessitous of those brought up for trial as they are guilty of rigid severity to those who are in comfortable circumstances.

Among those who have been arrested from the sub-district of Horopista are two Greek subjects, brothers of Dr. Pheraos, one of whom was brought here as a prisoner from Monastir, whither he had gone over with his father, after taking the oath of allegiance as a Greek subject, being a native of Pheré in Thessaly.

The proceedings of these courts-martial will bring many men to the verge of desperation, and will also effectually smooth the way for the foreign emissaries, especially those of Austria-Hungary.

For days one has heard nothing but "When will Austria come and take possession of Macedonia, and release us from the unsupportable miseries which are daily becoming more and more unendurable."

This may be heard from the lips of peasants and townsfolk over and over again, in spite of the secret police surveillance which these military Courts have set on foot.

No. 76.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 10.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November* 28, 1881.

WITH reference to my Report of the 22nd instant upon the inquiries instituted into alleged treasonable proceedings in the district of Cassandra, I have the honour to further inform your Lordship that it has been very confidently asserted here that the officials who are conducting these inquiries have cruelly tortured their prisoners, some of whom, in particular Pappa Dorotheos, of Isvor, and N. Marino, of Erysso, having died from the effects of the ill-treatment they were subjected to.

My attention having been called to the matter, I have made, and caused to be made, inquiries whether there is any foundation in these statements, and I now have the honour to submit herewith to your Lordship copy of a letter on the subject from Mr. Bizzo, Chief Dragoman of this Consulate-General.

I believe that some of the prisoners have been beaten, but the reports of their having been tortured by fire or by water are without any foundation in fact; and have been circulated in the hope of exciting the sympathy and intervention of foreign Consuls in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Mr. Bizzo to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Salonica, November* 27, 1881.

IN accordance with your instructions, I sent a confidential agent to Larighova and Erysso to verify the rumours which are in circulation here, and to ascertain what the officials sent by the Government have done concerning the alleged treasonable acts in the district of Cassandra, and to find out whether Marino and the priest of Isvor had actually died in consequence of the tortures to which it is said they were subjected or not.

The following is the communication which I have received on the subject:—

At first the Government officials employed threatening language, and even proceeded to blows towards some of the peasants, in order to force them to give evidence about the arms and military stores which were secretly imported into this district some time since. Subsequently some of the inhabitants made confession concerning the aforesaid importation, whereupon the beating at once ceased, and the judicial inquiry was continued. And whereas it has been generally asserted that the priest of Isvor and Anagnosti Marino died in consequence of the torture to which they were subjected, this statement is false, those persons being alive.

Affairs are not as reported at Salonica, and the rumours which have been spread there should not be believed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JEAN BIZZO.

No. 77.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)

My Lord, *Salonica, December* 7, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with one inclosure, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the disarmament of the monks of Mount Athos, and the result of the inquiry instituted in the district of Cassandra in connection with an alleged insurrectionary movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, December* 4, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a recent letter from a correspondent at Mount Athos, stating that the Ottoman authorities have summoned the monks of all the monasteries to deliver up all the fire-arms in their possession.

It is said that the secret documents seized by the authorities of Cassandra, and the confessions made by the individual Marino, of Erysso, who has turned informer, show that everything was prepared for an insurrection in that and other districts in Macedonia in the event of a war between Turkey and Greece.

All the persons who were arrested in the villages of Cassandra have been released with the exception of the following, who are charged with complicity in the movement:—Pappa Dorotheos, of Isvor; Hadji Ghiorghi and Nicola Vlako, of Larigova; N. Hadji Anagnosti and Petro Ghiorghi, of Polyghero; Agapitos Dimitri, of Ourmelia; Steria Kara Athanassi, of Livadi; and Dr. Athanassur, of Polyghero.

These eight individuals have been conducted to Salonica to be tried by the Local Criminal Court.

I saw them when they were brought in. They were all on horseback and in charge of two soldiers; they showed no signs of having been ill-treated, and I may add that they declared to some of their friends who visited them in prison that they had not been tortured. One of them said he had been thrashed, and all, more or less, complained of the insufficiency of the prison rations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

Extract from a Letter from a Correspondent at Mount Athos.

(Translation.) *November* 30, 1881.

THE Imperial Commissioners, Mehmed Bey and Mustapha Bey, the latter having replaced the functionary originally appointed, have recently arrived at Mount Athos on their return from Erysso, and thereupon demanded of the Holy Brotherhood the production of all the arms in their possession, and a deposit of the same at the official residence of the Kaïmakam, and this, too, without the Imperial Commissioners having produced or even read any written order whatever touching such collection of arms, which would in reality amount to a general disarmament; they merely made a verbal proposition to the brotherhood, to which the latter at once assented without making any observations, and dispatched Circulars to the monasteries containing strict injunctions to the brethren that all arms should be collected and brought to Cariès, at which village their arrival was expected. In short, a general disarmament is now being effected on Mount Athos, much to the dissatisfaction and uneasiness of the Holy Fathers, who see in these unforeseen measures a multiform attack on the holy mountain.

Iskender Bey left to-day for Salonica, having been summoned, so he informed the Fathers, to Constantinople by a telegram from the Sultan.

It were needless to attempt to describe the uneasiness and anxiety which these measures are causing to the Holy Fathers, and more especially that of disarmament, as it leaves the mount altogether without the means of self-protection.

No. 78.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 19.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 13, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to state that I have called the attention of Assim Pasha, unofficially, to the fact of some brigands having been left to die in their chains in the prison of Janina, as noted in Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney's despatch to me of the 19th ultimo, a copy of which was forwarded by that gentleman to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 79.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 26.)

My Lord, *Salonica, December* 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the affairs of Mount Athos and the district of Cassandra.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, December* 8, 1881.

WITH reference to the alleged infliction of torture upon some of the prisoners in the district of Cassandra, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the matter appears to have been brought under the notice of the Sultan, for the Acting Governor-General has received a telegraphic despatch from the Secretary of His Majesty, ordering the presence at "Yildiz-Kiosk" of Pappa Dorotheos of Isvor, the priest who, it was rumoured here, had died from the effects of most cruel treatment.

Pappa Dorotheos left this by last Monday's boat for Constantinople, in charge of a police officer.

The latest news which I have received from Mount Athos states that the fire-arms were being collected at all the monasteries, and would be delivered to the Turkish authorities on the 5th instant; further, that the two military officers, Mustapha Bey and Mehmed Bey, who are conducting the inquiry at Mount Athos, have arrested several individuals, including some monks, who are suspected of concealing fire-arms and ammunition.

They have also called upon the monastic community to furnish them with written answers to the following questions:—

1. The number of monks and other inmates of each monastery;

2. The quantity of gunpowder required by the monasteries for the celebration of religious festivals and for blasting purposes, and from where it is procured;

3. Whether the monasteries have any permission from the Government to cut timber in the forests of the district.

My informant assures me that the monks are very much exercised and excited by the investigation and proceedings of the above officers, and have prepared a Memorial on the subject for presentation to the Russian, Greek, Roumanian, and Servian Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 80.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 27.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, December* 17, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my despatch of to-day, and of its inclosure, to the Earl of Dufferin, relating to the manner in which the provincial authorities appear to be carrying out the

orders of the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs with respect to the suppression of brigandage in Epirus, as mentioned in Lord Dufferin's despatch of the 29th October last to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 80.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, December* 17, 1881.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch, dated 29th October last, reporting to Earl Granville that the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs had promised to your Excellency that he would cause "immediate orders to be sent to the authorities to spare no effort to disperse the numerous bands of brigands who render life and property so insecure in the interior of Epirus," I have the honour to inclose, for the information of your Excellency, translation of Mr. Kypriotis' despatch of the 6th instant, which goes far to show the character of one at least of those persons whom the provincial authorities, acting no doubt in obedience to the above-mentioned orders from the Ottoman Minister, have selected for the purpose of pursuing brigands, and, consequently, the restoration of public security.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 80.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Janina, December* 6, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that a month since the well-known Mustafa Pronio, of Paramithia, on pretence of pursuing the brigand chief, Stavraki, but prompted by a desire to avenge himself especially on the inhabitants of Seliani, with whom he had come to hands on a former occasion, entered with his "Palikars" the villages of Seliani, Lambanista, and Plakita, committed all sorts of violence on the women and children, and sent the men in crowds to the prisons of Paramithia and Janina.

It is to be regretted that the Local Administration approves his conduct.

The inhabitants of the above-mentioned villages have sent a Petition, copy of which I think it useless to forward to you, giving an account of their sufferings, to the various Consulates.

For the sake of humanity, one could make friendly representations on the subject to the Vali, but I consider it superfluous, for, whatever remedy he might suggest, practically he would do nothing.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 81.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 31, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 13th instant, and I approve the steps taken by your Excellency, as therein reported, to bring to the notice of the Turkish Government the sufferings of the brigands imprisoned at Janina.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 82.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 9, 1882.

I TRANSMIT herewith an extract from a note from the Porte which has been communicated to me by the Ottoman Ambassador, summarizing the principal grievances of the Turkish Government against the Bulgarian authorities.

The Memorandum is divided into several heads, and I have to request you to furnish me with any observations you may have to offer upon the various subjects with which it deals.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Extract from Memorandum respecting Brigandage in Macedonia.

LA Sublime Porte, émue des déprédations et des crimes que des bandes de brigands, formées en Bulgarie, venaient perpétrer dans les provinces voisines de la Principauté, n'a cessé, depuis deux ans, de demander le concours du Gouvernement Princier en vue d'une action combinée ayant pour objet de mettre fin à cette situation. Malheureusement, toutes les propositions faites dans ce but ont été écartées par le Gouvernement Bulgare au grand avantage des bandits qui, pourchassés par les troupes Impériales, s'enfuient au delà de la ligne de démarcation, où ils sont sûrs de trouver un refuge et de rester impunis.

Le Gouvernement Impérial se voit ainsi placé devant l'alternative ou de forfaire à l'obligation de défendre ses populations contre les attaques des brigands, ou bien de faire poursuivre ces derniers par ces troupes au delà de la ligne de démarcation. Les autorités Bulgares paraissent vouloir pousser les choses à l'extrême par leur refus obstiné de se prêter à l'entente que le mal signalé exige impérieusement, et que la sécurité et la tranquillité communes des provinces voisines conseillent.

No. 83.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 8, 1882.

MR. VICE-CONSUL BLAKENEY, in his despatch of the 17th ultimo, has informed your Lordship of the character of Moustafa Pronio, who has been charged by the local authorities with the duty of suppressing brigandage in Epirus. I considered it desirable to bring to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs the evils which must ensue from the employment of such an agent, and his Excellency at once caused orders to be sent to the local authorities to abstain from making use of the services of Moustafa Pronio.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 84.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 18.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 11, 1882.

MR. VICE-CONSUL BLAKENEY forwarded to your Lordship on the 15th of last October copies of two despatches from Mr. Kypriotis, giving an unsatisfactory account of the state of his Vice-Consular district. I deemed it advisable to communicate the substance of Mr. Kypriotis' Reports to the Sublime Porte in the form of a *pro-memorid*. I have now the honour to inclose a copy of the reply I have received, by which your Lordship will observe that the Sublime Porte deny that the con-

dition of the Janina district was as grave as reported by Mr. Kypriotis, and states that, owing to the activity of the authorities, the vilayet has been almost entirely freed from acts of brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Note Verbale.

LA plupart des méfaits qu'on affirme avoir été commis dans le Vilayet de Janina sont ignorés par les autorités locales. Le récit de quelques autres a besoin de rectification.

Phakanos, capturé un moment par les brigands, a été relâché dans la suite. Le nommé Christopaulo, qui servait de guide à la bande, a été arrêté. Apostolidis, Chef des bandits qui avaient enlevé Phakanos, n'a pu se tenir plus longtemps sur le territoire Ottoman, où il était poursuivi sans relâche, et a dû se rendre, enfin, avec toute sa bande et sa famille, aux autorités Helléniques de Trikala.

Les bandits qui ont attaqué et saccagé la maison de Christo, à Vanissa, appartiennent à la bande de Stourka. Quelques-uns d'entre eux sont tombés déjà entre les mains de l'autorité, qui les a déférés à la cour-martiale.

Les chefs de bande Davli et Kerassovitis, ayant été serrés de près par les troupes lancées à leur poursuite, ont dû passer successivement la frontière avec tous leurs acolytes et se rendre à discrétion aux autorités Helléniques. D'après des informations dignes de foi, ces malfaiteurs sont occupés en ce moment à acheter des immeubles à Tirnovo, où ils comptent s'installer.

Ainsi, grâce aux mesures les plus énergiques adoptées par les autorités Impériales, le vilayet a été presque entièrement purgé de la présence des malfaiteurs, provenant pour la plupart du territoire voisin. Une seule bande, celle de Stourka, ne s'est pas rendue encore; mais vivement poursuivie par les troupes Ottomanes, elle ne tardera pas à avoir le sort des autres bandes.

No. 85.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 27, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship of the 25th November last respecting the Christian merchants of Janina imprisoned at Constantinople, I have the honour to state that I have brought their case to the notice of the Prime Minister, and pointed out to him the excessive nature of the sentence which has been passed on them.

Said Pasha informed me in reply that the affair was now in the hands of the Council of Ministers, and that the Minister of War was pressing for the execution of the sentence of the military Court. His Highness added that, personally, he was opposed to the carrying out of the sentence, and promised that he would do his best to persuade his colleagues to adopt the same view.

In the meantime, I have addressed a Circular letter to my colleagues, drawing attention to the risk these unfortunate people run through the obstinacy of the Minister of War of undergoing a sentence which is manifestly out of proportion to their offence, and which has been admitted to be so by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 86.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received February 13.)

My Lord, *Salonica, January 31, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that his Excellency Dervish Pasha arrived in Salonica from the interior on the 13th instant, and, as is customary on such occasions, was met on his arrival here by a large concourse of people, consisting of all the Government functionaries, civil and military, the religious heads of the non-Mussulman communities, and such private individuals of position as considered it incumbent on them to welcome him on his return to the capital of the province. His Excellency had a very cordial reception, at which he evinced great satisfaction, and of which he has since expressed his appreciation by conferring decorations and other distinctions on some of the Notables of the place.

On the morning of the 16th instant an official reception was held by Dervish Pasha at the Government House, where several addresses were presented to him on the part of the local communities, and hymns of welcome sung by the school children. His Excellency had previously addressed his audience in a long speech, which was listened to with marked attention and respect, and warmly applauded at its close, and of which I inclose an account by Mr. Assistant Richards, who was present on the occasion at my request.

It appears, from all that I have been able to gather, that the Pasha has met everywhere during his late tour in the interior with a similar cordial reception, and was greeted with manifestations of loyalty to the Sultan.

I inclose an account of his visit to Castoria.

The unvarying kindness and condescension with which he has treated all alike, the marked notice he took of the religious heads of the Christian communities, the speeches he made to the people on the subject of religious and political equality, and the assurances he gave of the Sultan's constant solicitude for the welfare of all classes of the inhabitants, have produced a very good impression, and the hope that serious efforts will be made to restore quiet and security in the country.

In a conversation which I have had with his Excellency, he informed me that he had visited the following places: Uscup, Kiupruli-Veles, Prilep, Monastir, Ochrida, Castoria, Korytza (Gjortcha), Vodina, Niausta, Caraferia, and Yenidjeh-Vardar; and that on the whole he was satisfied that there were no signs of any serious disaffection among the inhabitants; but he frankly admitted that the continued state of brigandage formed a subject of general complaint.

Although in the speeches which he delivered here the early suppression of this evil was the subject he invariably dwelt upon, I regret to say that so far no special measures have been taken in that direction, and robber bands continue to roam about and commit depredations and outrages in most of the districts of Macedonia, as also in Epirus.

In one case of brigandage, however, Dervish Pasha's action has been successful. Upon my Austro-Hungarian colleague complaining to him that the local authorities had been remiss in taking the necessary steps to effect the release of the Hungarian, M. Adamo, who was captured in the vicinity of Caterina more than three months ago by a band of brigands, his Excellency at once telegraphed to the Sub-Governor of that district that unless the captive was promptly rescued he would hold him, the Sub-Governor, directly responsible for the consequences. On the receipt of this telegram the Sub-Governor obtained information as to the exact whereabouts of the band in question, and, guided by his informant, made a sudden attack on the brigand camp, put to flight its panic-stricken occupants, and rescued M. Adamo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 86.

Mr. Richards to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Salonica, January* 19, 1882.

IN accordance with your instructions, I repaired to the Government House on the morning of the 16th instant, in order to be present, though in an unofficial and private capacity, at the public reception given to his Excellency Dervish Pasha on the occasion of his return from the interior, and to listen to and report on the speech which he was expected to make. I beg, Sir, to submit the following as the sum and substance of the remarks made by his Excellency on this occasion, merely premising that, owing, unfortunately, to my being at some little distance from the speaker, I was unable to follow him throughout.

After a warm acknowledgment of the deep debt of gratitude he owed His Majesty the Sultan for the cordial support so graciously accorded him throughout the arduous undertaking in Albania which he had lately been fortunate enough to bring to a successful termination, he proceeded to announce his appointment as Inspector-General of the four vilayets of Salonica, Cossova, Monastir, and Janina, in which capacity he hoped to do all that lay within his power to promote the prosperity and welfare of the country. He then made sundry moral reflections relative to the different points of distinction which separate man from the rest of the animal creation, and went on to speak about the urgent need of a feeling of security, showing how indispensable it is to man in the performance of the common functions of every-day life. He deplored the want of security for life and property in Macedonia, and declared that the Government was doing its best to put down with a strong hand the crying evil of brigandage, so rife at present; but, at the same time, he assured his hearers that, unless the people co-operated with the Government and gave its functionaries, military and civil, every assistance in its power for the furtherance of this object, their very best and most strenuous efforts would be in vain. He pointed out that if the inhabitants of Macedonia refused food and shelter to any one whom they suspected of being a brigand, it would soon be a comparatively easy task to pursue and finally capture all who are at present engaged in this nefarious occupation. Even here in Salonica it was a notorious fact that brigands had been hiding in wine-shops and other such places with the full cognizance, if not encouragement, of the proprietors. His Excellency repeatedly impressed on his hearers the necessity of co-operation between the Government and the people in order to insure the suppression and eradication of brigandage. He went on to say that it had become necessary to institute a system of guarantee in a regular descending scale from the highest civil functionaries in the vilayet down to the village Prefects, superintendents of farm buildings, and, finally, the rural police; that every official would in this way give bail for the proper and efficient performance of his duties and the prevention of brigandage in so far as in him lay, and so a chain of personal responsibility would be established of which every official, from the highest to the lowest, would form one of the connecting links. For the superintendence in detail and general putting into execution of this scheme a Council would be instituted in the head-quarters of the vilayet, whose duties would be to see that in no case would there be any shirking of this responsibility. He begged that, in future, any one who was in possession of positive information as to the whereabouts of a band of brigands, or who had reason to believe that an attack was projected against any village, body of men, or single individual, he would, without a moment's delay, impart this information or give this warning to the nearest authorities, or to a Consul of a foreign Power. That it was only thus that brigandage could eventually be stamped out. After a few remarks of an encouraging nature, his Excellency reminded his audience that he was a native of Salonica himself, and that he had the welfare of the country at heart, and that, therefore, they might be sure that he would do everything in his power to promote the well-being and prosperity of Macedonia and its people; but that they, as he had previously told them, must co-operate with him in order to secure this desirable end. He then offered up a prayer for his Imperial Majesty the Sultan, which brought the speech to a conclusion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 86.

Extract from a Letter from a Correspondent at Castoria, dated December 23, 1881 (*January* 4, 1882).

(Translation.)

THE other day our town donned its holiday garb on the occasion of the arrival of his Excellency Dervish Pasha, who was received with exceptionally great honours. His Excellency, as soon as he arrived, summoned to his presence the principal citizens of the town, both Mussulmans and Christians, and also the Notables of the neighbouring villages, and gave them a very kind reception. He subsequently addressed his audience in the courtyard, in a speech which lasted nearly two hours, on the subject of equality, social and political. He announced in most emphatic language that tribal and religious distinction no longer exists, but that all men are equal before the law, and all are equally the object of the paternal love and solicitude of his Imperial Majesty the Sultan, who loves his people. He bade all men love each other, and busy themselves in their respective avocations, by following which line of conduct they might expect many benefits in the future. His speech excited everywhere considerable interest and attention. His Excellency paid a visit yesterday to our Bishop. This visit delighted exceedingly the Christians by its condescension, indeed they (*i.e.*, the Christians) are enthusiastic in their praises of Dervish Pasha's kindness, and of the brilliant eloquence of his speech. To-day he distributed decorations as follows: to the Kaimakam, an order of a high grade; to Veliour Bey and Aïdin Bey decorations of the fourth grade; and to Tchata and Shraska (Christians), decorations of the fifth grade.

No. 87.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 11.)

My Lord, *Salonica, February* 26, 1882.

I HAVE made inquiries as to the state of brigandage in the Vilayet of Salonica during the last two months, and I now beg leave to submit the following information which I have procured on the subject:—

About seven weeks ago, Pharmaki, an Albanian Moslem, chief of a band of brigands, and one of his comrades, were attacked and killed by a military detachment in the vicinity of Mount Olympus.

A few days afterwards, the troops having obtained the services of a spy, a Christian peasant, surrounded a small forest in which Nicko (Colonel Synge's captor) and his band of eleven brigands were concealed.

On the attack being made, four members of the band were killed, while the remaining seven, with Nicko, contrived to effect their escape.

The soldiers decapitated the four brigands, and brought their heads into Catterina.

Very soon after this occurrence, the troops killed two other brigands named Spiro and Ichingané Vassil, whom they found separated from their band, cut off their heads and brought them to Catterina.

On the 1st instant a band of brigands, composed of seventeen individuals (eight Moslem Albanians and nine Christians), made a raid on the village of Nissi, in district of Caraferia, and not far from Tricovista, Colonel Synge's estate. They carried off a young girl, 14 years of age, and the following day kidnapped three Christian well-to-do peasants of the village of Skina in the same neighbourhood. The military detachment sent in pursuit succeeded in surrounding the band, and, during the encounter which ensued, killed eight of the brigands (five Mahommedans and three Christians), and effected the rescue of the four hostages.

The inclosed is an account of this well-planned and conducted pursuit, as published in the local Government newspaper, the "Selanik."

Two new bands, composed of six and seven individuals respectively, which appeared in the neighbourhood of Mount Olympus towards the end of last month, have been captured and brought to Salonica, together with seventeen other brigands who had lately made their submission to the Commandant of Catterina, upon the understanding that they are to have a free pardon after they give bail to be of good behaviour.

It is said that among the captured outlaws there are two deserters from the Greek frontier troops known as the "Euzoni."

Two weeks ago, four other brigands, said to have belonged to these "Euzoni" troops, were pursued and destroyed by a patrol in the vicinity of Litohoro, in the district of Catterina, and two captives whom they held to ransom effected their escape during the pursuit.

Again, on the day following this incident, a brigand chief named Caltek and one of his companions were attacked by another patrol at a short distance from Catterina. Caltek was killed on the spot, and his companion, slightly wounded, gave himself up, and has since furnished important information respecting certain individuals who befriended the brigands in Macedonia.

With the exception of Nicko, all the notorious brigand chiefs in the districts of Catterina and Caraferia have been disposed of; and there is some hope that Nicko and his band, now reduced to six individuals, will surrender themselve in despair of escaping the vigilance of the authorities. I have also the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that generally in the other districts of the Vilayet of Salonica, especially those contiguous to the Bulgarian and East Roumelian borders, the state of brigandage has considerably diminished.

No serious offences against the person or acts of robbery have been perpetrated in the Sandjaks of Serres and Drama within the last two months; the district of Cassandra is now perfectly quiet, and in that of Stroumnitza the authorities have been pursuing with more energy and success than heretofore the lawless class, which is chiefly composed of deserters from the army.

In the district of Vodina the situation has also improved since Dervish Pasha caused to be removed to Salonica and placed under police surveillance two local influential Beys of the Dourzi family, who are accused of having assisted the movements of the notorious Albanian robber chief, Yunouz Ghega.

There has been no appreciable decrease in brigandage in the Vilayet of Janina; on the other hand, outrages and acts of highway robbery have diminished in most of the districts of the Vilayet of Monastir: but, from what I hear, this is due more to the severity of winter than to any special efforts of the local authorities.

I shall notice, in a separate Report, the situation of affairs in the Vilayet of Cossova.

In conclusion, I should add that the success of the action of the Turkish authorities against brigandage in Macedonia, especially in the districts of Mount Olympus, is in a great measure due to a surcease of the political agitation which was carried on in connection with the Greek frontier question, and which ranged the majority of the Christian inhabitants in hostility against the Government. The people now manifest a better feeling and temper, and are more interested in bringing brigands to justice than in screening them as heretofore.

Dervish Pasha also deserves much credit for the vigilance and energy he has shown, and for the arrangements he has made for the protection of life and property; but, although I do not wish to underrate his services, I would venture to express the opinion that his measures, as set forth in the inclosed General Order to the provincial authorities, if not supplemented by a properly organized gendarmerie, will only lead to a temporary lull than to a definitive suppression of brigandage.

Nor do I think that public security can be effectually restored in the districts bordering the Greek frontier-line without some understanding between the Greek and Turkish Governments for joint action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 88.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 11.)

My Lord, *Salonica, February* 26, 1882.

WITH reference to the situation of affairs in the Vilayet of Cossova, I have the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that most of the Albanian and Bulgarian brigand gangs which infested the districts of Uscup, Pristina, Geïlan, and Comanova, and the country in the vicinity of the Bulgarian and Servian frontiers, have dispersed; and that I have heard from persons who have recently visited the

Sandjaks of Novi-Bazar, Prisrend, and Dibra that the Ghega Albanians in those provinces and the adjacent districts of Ochrida, Ipek, and Jacova are quiet, and apparently reconciled to the administrative arrangements made by Dervish Pasha. I am assured that the taxes are now more regularly paid, that cattle-lifting and blood-feuds, and other social disorders, are less frequent, and that generally the authority of the law is more felt and respected.

But my informants also state that this improvement in the situation may eventually be disturbed by the insurrection in the neighbouring Provinces of Herzegovina and Bosnia; and although they admit that at present there are no signs of political agitation on this side of the border, still they apprehend that the Albanians will be excited by their sentiments of nationality and religion to assist the movement should it spread southwards.

Some such apprehension is also harboured by the Austro-Hungarian military authorities in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, for I know for certain that the General in command of the Austrian troops at Taslidza (Plevljé) has lately confidentially informed the Ottoman frontier authorities that large stores of arms, destined for the insurgents in Herzegovina, were concealed by Albanian Chiefs in the town of Mitrovitza. I should also add that Dervish Pasha's sudden departure for the Vilayet of Cossova, immediately after he returned here from his late tour in the Sandjaks of Drama and Serres, was for the purpose, I am credibly informed, of inquiring into the truth of the above report, and recommending, at the same time, to the serious attention of the Governors of Novi-Bazar, Prisrend, and Ipek the necessity of carefully watching the frontier in order to prevent the Albanians giving any aid and encouragement to the rebels against the Austrian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 89.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 13.)

(Extract.) *Sophia, February* 25, 1882.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inclose an extract from a Memorandum drawn up by M. Voulcovitch in answer to the complaints of the Porte contained in Assim Pasha's despatch of the 22nd December last.

With reference to M. Voulcovitch's remarks on the subject of brigandage in Macedonia, I am bound to state that they do not accord with the account given by Nihad Pasha, as reported in my despatch of the 12th November last, in which he states that the proposals for an arrangement came from the Porte.

With regard to passports, M. Voulcovitch states that it is the Turkish Government who refuse to acknowledge Bulgarian passports, and with regard to the demolition of State property, M. Voulcovitch states that the only properties which have been demolished were falling into ruin and had become dangerous.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Extract from Memorandum by M. Voulcovitch.

1. *Brigandage en Macédoine.*—Des bandes de brigands ne se sont jamais formées en Bulgarie, depuis la constitution de la Principauté. Aucune bande n'a été signalée au Gouvernement Princier comme ayant franchi la frontière.

Toutefois, comme sur toute frontière, il peut se rencontrer de temps en temps des maraudeurs qui profitent de la ligne-frontière.

Pour empêcher ces cas même, le Gouvernement Princier a proposé au Gouvernement Ottoman une entente commune à intervenir sur les mesures à prendre pour la sécurité des frontières. La Sublime Porte s'est toujours refusée.

Il nous semble que la Sublime Porte parle de brigandage sur nos frontières pour masquer ses fautes administratives dans la Macédoine, livrée toute entière au brigandage et à tous les désordres.

Quant à la menace que fait la Sublime Porte de faire poursuivre les brigands

au delà des limites de démarcation, nous espérons qu'elle se tiendra simplement à la menace, autrement elle verrait ses troupes repoussées par la force armée si elles tentaient de passer les frontières.

No. 90.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Salonica, March* 11, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with one inclosure, I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the repression of brigandage in the Vilayet of Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 90.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, March* 11, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Turkish troops assisted by columns of the native volunteers organized by Dervish Pasha have had some further successful encounters with the brigands in this vilayet. Within the last fortnight three Greek brigand chiefs, namely, Cokino, Navum, and Stavraki, who had long exercised their calling and done much mischief in Macedonia, have been pursued and killed.

On the 7th instant, a whole band composed of twelve Turks was captured in the district of Cavalla. All of them had Martini rifles in their possession.

An official telegram reached this five days ago reporting that a military detachment had succeeded, after a long pursuit, in attacking a band of eight Bulgarian robbers in the district of Stronmnitza. Five of the robbers were shot down and the remainder captured.

The Kaimakam of Djuma also telegraphically reports the destruction of a small band of five Bulgarian robbers who had recently committed depredations in the vicinity of the border.

My correspondent at Catterina writes most hopefully of the improving condition of that district, and bears testimony to the active and vigorous efforts of the local Commandant, Colonel Salih Bey, to restore order and tranquillity, and I am glad to say that the Sultan, as your Lordship will learn from the inclosed extract from the "Selanik" newspaper, has promoted this officer to the rank of Major-General in recognition of his services in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 90.

Extract from the "Salonica Gazette" of February 25, 1882.

(Translation.)

IT is announced, in a telegram just received by his Excellency the Governor-General, from the Minister of War, that Salih Bey, a Colonel in command of that portion of the Imperial troops that has been employed for some time past in the district of Catterina, and who in the work of the suppression of brigandage has made such strenuous and praiseworthy efforts, has been promoted to the rank of Major-General, and thereby receives the title of Pasha; it is also announced that this officer has been informed by telegraph of the fact of his promotion, and of the Imperial injunction that he should continue to hold his present command in the district above mentioned.

Although the district of Catterina being more infested by brigands than any other district, there has been no cessation there on the part of the brigands in the

commission of every possible outrage and crime; yet, as the result of the carefully laid and promptly executed designs of the above-mentioned officer (Salih Bey), and owing to the strenuous and continuous efforts he has made, the greater number of these brigands have either been killed or brought in prisoners. We are therefore highly gratified to be able to announce in this paragraph that this officer's zeal and devotion being made known at the head-quarters of the vilayet, and favourable mention having been made thereof in the proper quarter by his Excellency the Governor-General, His Most Gracious Majesty the Sultan has thought fit to raise him to the rank of Pasha, as a reward for his meritorious services.

No. 91.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 17, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, in which he gives an account of the risk incurred by Mr. Philip Stanhope and his party of being captured by brigands during a journey he recently made in Albania.

Previous to the reception of this despatch I had been in telegraphic correspondence with Mr. Kypriotis on account of the refusal on the part of the Vali of Janina to give Mr. Stanhope a proper escort, the Vali stating that he could not spare so many soldiers. In consequence, however, of my representations at the Sublime Porte, the Ottoman authorities took the necessary precautions to insure the safety of the party.

I would venture to call your Lordship's special attention to Mr. Blakeney's remarks as to the insecurity of the country and the danger to which English travellers are consequently exposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Confidential.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, March* 4, 1882.

IT will perhaps interest your Excellency to learn that Mr. Stanhope appears to have run a great risk of being captured by brigands, for Mr. Kypriotis reports to me confidentially that his intention to visit Janina was known there before he (Mr. Kypriotis) had received my letter acquainting him of it, and further, that two days after Mr. Stanhope's arrival there he discovered that the brigand chiefs, Stavrakis and Sulistis, were at Suli, which shows that they, too, knew of it, and that a plan for his capture was being prepared. Fortunately, however, instead of proceeding that way, Mr. Stanhope by mere chance took the road to Philipiades, and thus avoided falling into their hands.

I cannot find words to express my anxiety whenever English travellers or sportsmen visit the country, not only on account of the insecurity that prevails, but for their persistence, I will almost say, to disregard the sincere advice that is tendered to them.

I beg leave, however, to remark that Mr. Stanhope is an exception to this rule, for without the slightest difficulty he gave up the idea of visiting Suli, and took the road traced out for him by Colonel Zahir Bey and the Mutessarif, and thanks to which he no doubt escaped being captured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 92.

Consul Longworth to Earl Granville.—(Received March 29.)

My Lord, *Volo, March 20, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister in Athens, reporting cases of outrages on Mahommedans in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Ford.

Sir, *Volo, March 20, 1882.*

I REGRET to have to report the following acts of outrages perpetrated on Mahommedans in Thessaly:—

1. On the 26th February Ismail Effendi was cut to pieces at Karademerli.

2. On the 1st March Hussein Bey was atrociously murdered and robbed at Larissa.

3. On the 15th March Dervish Effendi, his wife, three children, and two servants were put to death by incendiaries.

4. On the 16th March Jalil Agha and his son were assassinated, their mill burnt, and their house pillaged.

In not one of these crimes have the authors been discovered, and, as a consequence, the alacrity of the Hellenic police is open to very unfavourable criticism.

That, since the annexation, only Mahommedans should have been the victims of such atrocities is rather remarkable, and somewhat significant when taken in connection with the fact, that they are also subject to a series of petty insults and annoyances from their Christian countrymen.

The Mussulmans are naturally stricken with fear by these events, and, consequently, it is not to be wondered at that some ten Moslem families had just transferred their residence into Ottoman territory.

Unless, therefore, prompt and exceptional measures for the protection of the Mahommedans in Thessaly are adopted by the Hellenic Government, the emigrational movement among these people will become general, for it must be confessed that they have reasonable cause to fear lest the ill-feeling of the Christians towards them should break out in all the activity of a systematic persecution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 93.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 3, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Captain Jones on the subject of attempts to produce an insurrectionary movement in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Consul-General Jones to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Philippopoli, March 30, 1882.*

ON the 24th instant I had the honour of telegraphing to your Excellency to the effect that a certain Bulgarian of Macedonia, calling himself the Voivode Kermanlia had been arrested under suspicion of brigandage in the forest of Bellova, but as no overt act of this nature could as yet be proved he might shortly be set at liberty, and that possibly the Turkish authorities might have some criminal charge to bring against him which would warrant his detention.

He himself repudiates the character of brigand, and maintains that his sole object is to cross over into Macedonia for the purpose of raising that province against the Turkish rule, and pretends to be able to dispose of 500 followers in the cause.

Shortly after his incarceration a letter was received by the local authorities from one Kokolitz (calling himself the other's lieutenant), threatening that if his chief were not at once released, he would at once destroy all the villages in his neighbourhood.

Kremenlia likewise states that he has just been released from prison by the authorities of Samakov in Bulgaria, for the purpose of exciting an insurrection in Macedonia, and the Bailli of Ichtiman, on the Bulgarian frontier, reports to the authorities here that armed bands are frequently passing from the Principality towards the Macedonian frontier, and there is good reason to believe that a revolutionary committee has established itself at Samakov for this purpose.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that little sympathy with these proceedings is manifested in this province, where the national party is inclined to regard them rather as an effort made by the present Bulgarian Government to distract public attention from domestic troubles. I inclose translation of an article published by the organ of the national party here, which fairly represents the general feeling respecting the movement in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 94.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received April 22.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, April 15, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to subjoin copy of my despatch of to-day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the steps taken by the provincial authorities for the extirpation of brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, April 15, 1882.*

IT is with much satisfaction that I have the honour to report to your Excellency that energetic steps are now being taken by the provincial authorities against brigandage, a scourge from which this district has for the last few years suffered so very much. According to information received from Mr. Kypriotis, the following encounters appear to have recently taken place between the Imperial troops and the bands of Sotiris Papas and Sirákos, in all of which the brigands were the principal sufferers:—

1. At Pogtuorá Tsiflik the chief, Sotiris Papas, and two of his band were killed.
2. At Brazia one brigand was killed and five wounded.
3. In the neighbourhood of Brazia one brigand and two soldiers were wounded.
4. At Tamarina two brigands were killed and a good many wounded.

A wounded brigand who had been captured at Brazia was brought to Janina, and it is reported that the heads of five of the above brigands were taken to Grevená.

Another brigand, Manéka by name, was also captured at Anlona and conveyed to Janina.

It is to be hoped, however, that the troops will follow up their successes, and

thus restore, if not completely, at least to a certain extent, that security which this most afflicted district so very sorely stands in need of.

I am also informed by good authority that the Inspector of Tribunals at Janina has been instructed by the Porte to telegraph to Constantinople the perpetration of every fresh act of brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 95.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received April 26.)

My Lord, *Salonica, April 14, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of your Lordship, the following extract from a letter which I have recently received from my correspondent at Monastir relative to the situation of affairs in the Sandjak of Debra:—

"The present state of Debra is quiet, but the Debriots are not satisfied with Dervish Pasha's system of reform. In the presence of a certain number of battalions they keep quiet. One thing which Dervish Pasha has really succeeded in moderating to a certain degree is the 'Can Davassi' (blood feuds); they are shooting one another less than before."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 96.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April 26, 1882.*

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL JONES in his despatch of the 30th ultimo, inclosed in the Earl of Dufferin's despatch of the 3rd instant, states that a certain Kermalia, accused of brigandage, affirmed himself to have been lately let out of prison by the authorities of Samakow for the purpose of exciting an insurrection in Macedonia, and also that armed bands were said to be frequently passing from Bulgaria towards the Macedonian frontier.

The Austro-Hungarian Government are aware that individuals, but not bands, have been passing the frontier with supposed insurrectionary designs, for some unascertained destination, which was at first asserted to be the Herzegovina, where, however, they do not appear to have arrived.

Count Kálnoky has thought throughout, that it was more probable that they would remain in Macedonia with a view to take part in any movement which might occur there.

He absolves the Bulgarian Government from all complicity in these designs, and says that, as far as he is aware, the attitude, both of the Bulgarian and East Roumelian Government, has been perfectly correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 97.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 5, 1882.*

I HAVE received a letter, of which the inclosed is a copy,* from the relatives of the merchants of Janina imprisoned at Constantinople, imploring Her Majesty's Government to endeavour to obtain their liberation, and I have to request your Excellency to continue to use your good offices at the Porte on behalf of these unfortunate people.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* April 14, 1882.

No. 98.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8.)

My Lord, *Salonica, April 22, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of Mr. Interpreter Bizzo's letter of this date respecting the promise of a free pardon given by the Commandant of Catterina to the brigand chief, Nicko; and reporting the successful pursuit, by the Turkish military in that district, of Captain Mécha's band of nineteen brigands, who crossed over from Thessaly on the 14th instant.

I also inclose a translated extract of a paragraph taken from the Cossova "Gazette" relative to the pursuit of a band of twenty brigands who recently came over the Bulgarian frontier into the district of Kotchana, in the Vilayet of Cossova.

The appointment of General Grivas as Commander-in-chief in Thessaly has produced here a very good impression, and is generally considered as a proof of the determination of the Greek Government to maintain order and tranquillity on the frontier.

I hear that already several brigands who had been lurking in the vicinity of the border have made their submission to General Grivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 98.

Mr. Bizzo to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Salonica, April 22, 1882.*

IN accordance with your instructions, I beg to communicate to you the following information, which I have obtained from a sure source.

On the 12th instant Salih Pasha, the Commander-in-chief at Catterina, sent a certain individual, Ilmaz Ghéga by name, to have an interview with the brigand chief, Nicko, and to propose to him that he should surrender on promise of free pardon.

Nicko replied: "I put no faith in you, because many of those who have given themselves up under similar conditions are now in prison. But if I get a document signed by the English Consul-General at Salonica, in which I am assured that I have nothing to fear from his interference or from that of his Government, and also from the Vali giving the same promise, I am willing in that case to surrender. Otherwise, I will await my fate on the mountain side, or in the plain, and live and die a brigand, rifle in hand."

According to Ilmaz Ghéga's statement, it would appear that Nicko's and Catzaro's combined bands amount to twenty-five persons.

On the 14th instant, "Captain" Mécha, with a band of nineteen brigands, came over the frontier from Larissa into the district of Catterina. The troops ascertaining their whereabouts surrounded them, and, after a sharp conflict, succeeded in killing six of the band, including the chief, whose heads they cut off and brought into Catterina, the rest of the band having effected their escape. On the side of the troops a captain was killed, and his corpse brought into the town for interment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JEAN BIZZO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 98.

Extract from the "Cossova Gazette" of April 19, 1882.

(Translation.)

WE are given to understand that a telegram has been received by his Excellency the Governor-General from the Mutessarif of Uscup, reporting that a band of brigands, composed of twenty individuals, recently crossed the Bulgarian frontier,

and falling in with a detachment of mounted police in the vicinity of the village of Deramjé, in the Nahié of Piyanjé, in the Caza of Cotchana, a conflict ensued which resulted in the death of two of the brigands, without there being any casualty on our side.

Although, hitherto, at the approach of the summer season, it has been the custom for bands of brigands of this description to make their appearance from time to time, and as soon as there are too many of them to return to the localities from whence they came, yet, this year, thanks be to God, under the Imperial protection, we hope to enjoy the fruits of the effective measures taken by the Imperial Government to insure that security and tranquillity which is now becoming established in every part of our vilayet, so that we feel convinced that the villainous projects of these brigands will be frustrated, no chance being allowed them for putting them into execution, and that as soon as ever they make their appearance, at whatever point it may be, they will promptly be crushed and annihilated.

No. 99.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received May 13.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, May 6, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to subjoin copy of my despatch of to-day to the Earl of Dufferin relative to the extirpation of brigandage and the application of martial law at Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 99.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, May 6, 1882.*

I HAVE just this moment received a despatch from Mr. Kypriotis, acquainting me that the military authorities at Janina have exiled eleven Christian peasants, harbourers of brigands, to Asia Minor and Tripoli, which shows that the measures adopted by the authorities for the extirpation of brigandage have not slackened.

I have also the honour to acquaint your Excellency that martial law is again in force at Prevesa. I am at a loss, however, to discover the reason why this last step has been taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 100.

Memorandum communicated by Musurus Pasha, May 13, 1882.

Brigandage.

L'AFFIRMATION de M. Vulcovitch "que des bandes de brigands ne se sont jamais formées en Bulgarie depuis la constitution de la Principauté, et qu'aucune bande n'a été signalée au Gouvernement Princier comme ayant franchi la ligne de démarcation," est tout à fait contraire à la vérité, et démontre avec quelle insouciance, quel manque de déférence ce fonctionnaire répond aux représentations que les Consuls-Généraux se trouvent dans le cas d'adresser au Gouvernement Princier.

Les actes de brigandage commis par les bandes venant de la Bulgarie et signalés par les Gouverneurs-Généraux et les Commandants Militaires des provinces limitrophes ont fait justement depuis la constitution de la Principauté l'objet de communications réitérées de la part de la Sublime Porte, soit à l'Agence Bulgare à Constantinople, soit directement au Gouvernement Princier par l'entremise de Nihad Pacha.

M. Zancof, pendant qu'il était aux Affaires, avait bien reconnu lui-même que les auteurs de ces actes étaient les émigrés Bulgares de la Macédoine agglomérés sur la ligne de démarcation, et avait promis de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour interner ces gens dans la Principauté. Cet aveu, joint au fait bien connu parmi tant d'autres, des soixante-dix à quatre-vingts brigands qui, débouchant de la Bulgarie, vinrent attaquer et dévaliser le 26 Juin, 1881, un convoi d'émigrés Musulmans campés tout près d'Eghri Palanka, dément formellement l'affirmation de M. Vulcovitch.

M. Vulcovitch affirme encore "que le Gouvernement Princier a proposé au Gouvernement Impérial une entente commune à intervenir sur les mesures à prendre pour la sécurité de la ligne de démarcation, et que la Sublime Porte s'y est refusée toujours." Mais c'est tout le contraire qui est arrivé. La correspondance qui a été échangée et les pourparlers qui ont eu lieu à ce sujet le prouvent jusqu'à l'évidence.

Au commencement de l'année 1880, le Ministère Impérial des Affaires Étrangères avait proposé à l'Agence Bulgare à Constantinople l'adoption d'un des trois modes qu'il indiquait dans une lettre adressée le 20 Mai à Nihad Pacha. Depuis et durant deux ans, tous les efforts du Gouvernement Impérial tendant à amener une entente sont demeurés sans résultat. Devant des faits indéniables, quelle valeur peut avoir l'assertion de M. Vulcovitch? Les Consuls-Généraux des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin à Sophia, ordinairement si indulgents pour les hommes et les choses de la Principauté, ont sévèrement jugé dans leurs rapports le fonctionnaire qui, par des affirmations si inexactes, compromet la dignité de l'Administration Bulgare.

Le refus persistant de cette Administration de se prêter à une action commune est d'autant plus regrettable qu'il a eu pour effet de rendre les efforts isolés du Gouvernement Impérial stériles: les brigands, pourchassés par les troupes Ottomanes, trouvent au delà de la ligne de démarcation asile et impunité. Au moment où la Sublime Porte, placée ainsi dans l'alternative douloureuse de forfaire à l'obligation de défendre ses populations des provinces limitrophes contre les exactions des brigands ou de poursuivre les malfaiteurs au delà de la ligne de démarcation, a tout fait pour éviter les mesures extrêmes: M. Vulcovitch, méconnaissant la dignité de cette attitude, s'est laissé entraîner à des manifestations d'ardeurs guerrières pour le moins déplacées.

No. 101.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, May 20, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to subjoin copy of my despatch of to-day's date to the Earl of Dufferin relating to the pursuit of brigands and other steps taken by the local authorities in connection with the public security in Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, May 20, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that an engagement between the troops and the brigands took place on the 5th instant near the village of Zermon, district of Conitza, in which the chief, Liakos, was killed, and three of his band wounded. Seven more brigands were about the same time captured in the district of Janina.

I have also the honour to report that all criminal refugees are ordered to leave Prevesa within a few days' time, and further, that the proclamation of martial law in Prevesa has also been communicated to the various Consulates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 102.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Dufferin.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June .)

My Lord, *Scutari, May* 30, 1882.

I HAVE already had the honour of informing your Excellency that the Muhommedans of Scutari had felt annoyed with the native Roman Catholics for having declined to join them in the Petition to the Porte against all recent reforms and for a return to the old manner of governing the province.

The incidents that I am about to report to your Excellency show that there is danger that this feeling may take undue proportions.

On Sunday, the 21st instant, five Mussulmans entered the inclosure in which the Roman Catholic Cathedral stands, and, whilst afternoon service was going on, fired a revolver-shot at one of the windows.

The bullet, together with the broken glass, fell inside the building, and caused considerable alarm among the assembled congregation.

Two of the Mahommedans were, however, immediately arrested by some of the Roman Catholics present, and the priest, who had rushed out with his officiating robes on, had the greatest difficulty in preventing the infuriated congregation from shooting them for the outrage.

Abdi Pasha, to whom the culprits were conducted, promised that justice should be done, and gave orders for the arrest of the remaining three Mussulmans inculpated, who were said to be natives of Podgoritza.

After the lapse of two days the Roman Catholics found that not only had these three men succeeded in escaping to Montenegro, but that the Vali had also set at liberty the other two who had been given up to him.

As one of the latter individuals is a nephew of the Mahommedan Notable who had a principal share in securing the appointment of Abdi Pasha as Vali in the place of Hadji Osman Pasha, and in drawing up the before-mentioned Petition to the Porte, the Roman Catholics came to the conclusion that the outrage against the cathedral was perpetrated at his instigation, and they consequently held a public meeting and decided to bring by telegraph to the Porte's knowledge the weakness of the Vali.

I have been informed by some of the Roman Catholic Notables that they had to support this proposal in order to prevent the lower classes of their community from defiling as a retaliatory act one of the mosques by slaughtering a hog in its precincts. This fact had become so public that the Mahommedans placed guards at all their mosques for several nights.

I now understand that through the action of the Roman Catholic Bishop and with the support of the Austrian Consul-General, Abdi Pasha has been prevailed upon to rearrest the two men whom he had released, but unless he has the moral courage to free himself from the influences which now govern him, the appeasement of the Roman Catholics will only be temporary.

On the 27th instant another affair happened which has tended to increase the ill-feeling between the Mussulmans and Roman Catholics, but which, had the Vali been an energetic man, would have passed off as one of the to be lamented but daily occurrences of this province.

Zeinal Agha, the Boluk-Bashi or representative in Scutari of the Roman Catholic tribes of Scialla, Sossi, and Pulati, attempted to arrest two men of the first clan, who had come to town to sell some kids. The men, considering themselves unjustifiably interfered with, drew their pistols and wounded the Boluk-Bashi in the ankle. His servants and the soldiers and policemen of an adjoining guard-house immediately shot dead the two mountaineers.

The Roman Catholics now assert that the men need not have been dealt with in so summary a manner, as they had discharged the only fire-arms in their possession, and might easily have been arrested by the force at hand. To mark their indignation a kind of public funeral was given to the killed, and the Bishop was, under compulsion, obliged to permit their burial in consecrated ground, although his Eminence was disposed to mark his disapproval of the clansmen having attempted the death of Zeinal Agha, by refusing them such a burial.

I will not trouble your Excellency with any further details in proof of the disorganized state of the Government and society in this province. They are far too notorious to be denied, notwithstanding that the Turkish authorities feel they have secured themselves a refuge, when they observe that these matters are "Arnaout habits."

However, it is needful to recall to mind that the Roman Catholic element is the strongest in North Albania, and that if a weak and incapable Governor allows the evil of religious rivalry to be added to the other causes of disorder which already exist civil war may shortly break out in the province, when it will be found that the complete and efficient armament with breach-loading rifles is an accomplished fact among the Roman Catholic mountaineers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 103.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 21, 1882.

HER Majesty's Minister at Belgrade recently forwarded to me a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Nisch, requesting that the case of certain persons who had been arrested by the Ottoman authorities in Old Servia might be brought to the notice of this Embassy and of Her Majesty's Consulate-General at Salonica.

These persons were condemned about a year ago on a charge of conspiring against the Porte with the view of bringing about the annexation of Old Servia to the present Kingdom of Servia, and it appears from Mr. Baker's despatch that since then they have been kept in prison at Pristina and subjected to very harsh treatment.

Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, whom, on the receipt of Mr. Locock's despatch, I directed to make inquiries on the subject, fully confirms Mr. Baker's statements, and adds the following information, which he has received from a trustworthy source.

The accusation against the individuals in question was originally brought by a renegade, who, after gaining their confidence, threatened to divulge their secrets unless they paid him a certain sum of money. This they were unable to do, and consequently they were seized and thrown into prison. Unfortunately for them, it was found that they were really guilty of conspiring, but generally in the mild form, of receiving and transmitting letters and money, and, in one instance, a Servian decoration. Nothing further than this was proved against them. Mr. Blunt's informant added that they were, and still are, treated with a severity unwarranted by the extent of their crime.

Under the circumstances, I felt justified in making an appeal to the Sublime Porte in their behalf, and in requesting that, if it was found impossible to grant them their liberty, they might at all events be treated with less severity.

I am happy to state that, in answer to my representations, the Sublime Porte promised to write in the above sense to the competent authorities at Pristina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 104.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 14, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on the 26th ultimo the Sultan issued an Iradé for the formation of three Commissions, to be severally charged with the elaboration of the financial, judicial, and administrative reforms to be introduced into the Ottoman Empire.

The first of these Commissions meets at the Sublime Porte under the presidency of Akif Pasha, the President of the Council of State. Among its members are the Minister of Finance, the Director-General of the Indirect Contributions, and two German officials in the employ of the Ottoman Government, namely, Wettendorf

Effendi, Under-Secretary of the Department of Finance, and De Bertram Effendi, Secretary of the Administration of the Indirect Contributions.

Its object is to make a thorough investigation of the actual Budget, and to take into consideration the various resources which may be made available for increasing the revenues of the Treasury.

The President of this Commission did not conceal from me that their task was surrounded by the greatest difficulties.

The second Commission, which is to formulate the reforms which it may consider necessary for the improvement of the judicial system and the Law Courts, meets under the presidency of the Sheikh-ul-Islam. It is composed of the Minister of Justice, and most of the high judicial authorities of the Empire, together with several functionaries of the Ulema class. The fact of its being under the presidency of the Sheikh-ul-Islam proves that the Commission will take into its consideration the Chery, or Mussulman Law, as well as the "Medjellé" (Mussulman Civil Law) and the Ottoman Civil and Criminal Law, which is taken principally from the French Code.

The third Commission is to consider the reforms necessary for the development of commerce, agriculture, and public works. It meets under the presidency of Hassan Fehmi Pasha, the Minister of Public Works, and is composed of the Under-Secretary of that Department, who is a German, Raif Effendi, the Director-General of Public Works, M. Galland, a French engineer, and several other functionaries connected with the same Department.

The Sultan having expressed a wish to be furnished, as soon as possible, with the result of their labours, the three Commissions have met every day since their nomination; and I am informed that within a few days their respective Reports will be sent in to the Council of Ministers, who, after having examined them, will submit them to the approval of His Majesty the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 105.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 23.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November 9, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with two inclosures, which I have this day addressed to the Earl of Dufferin on the subject of the imprisonment at Pristina, in the Vilayet of Cossova, of a large number of Christians who are accused by a Vlach renegade of conspiring against the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, November 9, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, transmitting, for my information, a copy of the despatch you have addressed to Earl Granville with reference to certain persons imprisoned at Pristina.

Your Lordship will learn from the inclosed copies of two letters that numerous other arrests have been effected in the Vilayet of Cossova under the instigation of the Vlach renegade, Omer Effendi, who acts as an "agent provocateur" in trumping up charges of sedition against some of the leading Christians in the province.

Great alarm and discontent prevail in consequence among the inhabitants of Uscup, Pristina, Istip, and Comanova and other districts in the Vilayet of Cossova, and I am assured that unless the Porte puts a stop to this state of things many well-to-do Bulgarians will take refuge in Servia and Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

Mr. ——— to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Salonica, October 31, 1882.*

FROM information coming from the best authority a great and favourable change has taken place in the Vilayet of Cossova, where, as you are aware, the Governor-General Ahmet Hifzy Pasha has succeeded the Mushir Dervish Pasha as Commissioner Extraordinary, with full powers to deal with political as well as other criminals.

The Governor-General seems to have used these powers most discriminately; the province is nearly delivered of its brigands and political offenders, once very numerous, particularly on the Servian and Bulgarian frontiers, a natural consequence of the two late wars.

Since these wars both the Turco-Servian and Turco-Bulgarian frontiers have continually been the scene of raids and plunder, and although the guilty parties are frequently Mussulman Albanians, they have invariably been treated with the greatest severity, thus proving the good faith of the Turkish Government.

The Turkish authorities have had to deal with the Servian and Bulgarian propaganda, and in consequence many arrests have taken place, and in many cases Christians of good position have been condemned to various terms of imprisonment and exile. Their cases, in many instances, are very hard, the temptation they get coming from their liberated friends on the other side of the border.

These arrests have cast a certain gloom all over the province, and although in some cases they may be accused and found guilty of only sympathizing with their fellow-Christians over the border, and thus justifying to a certain degree the action of the Government, still it is very doubtful that the object in view will be obtained, *i.e.*, that of pacifying the country and gaining the faithful allegiance of all the Bulgarians remaining under Turkish rule. I am afraid that it will only lead to sever them for ever.

The Servian and Bulgarian Governments ought to be invited to exercise a better surveillance on their respective frontier.

On the other hand, the Turkish authorities ought, in their own interest, to show more generosity and kindness to the Bulgarians left to them; this alone would be the means of gaining them, and putting a stop to Bulgarian or Servian propaganda.

The Governor-General of Cossova, who is a very humane man, tries to act in this manner, but it is doubtful that the same feeling exists with the different members of the court-martial called upon to judge all such offenders. I am afraid, on the contrary, that the doings of this Court will in the end damage the Government and its interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ———.

Inclosure 3 in No. 105.

Extract from a Letter from Uscup, dated November 4, 1882.

I AM on a tour around Macedonia. Visited Velessa, and have been here a week. I shall leave here Monday for Istip.

I find that the roads are much safer than they were.

But there are said to be 151 in Pristina of the rich men of these parts in gaol as rebels, or as aiding rebels.

It would seem that most are there without the slightest cause. Men are afraid to speak their minds lest they be arrested. One, Omer Effendi, who was a Vlach, but became a Turk, is the worst of all the betrayers.

He is acting as a spy, and a statement on his part is enough to throw men into prison. He is a miserable wretch, and should be checked. He boasts that he has 135 in prison.

I wish the Consuls would look into this matter, for it is getting to be very serious.

Many are in prison, I am told, without knowing the charges against them. Every rich man is in fear lest he be arrested.

No. 106.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, November 23, 1882.*

PREVIOUS to receiving your Lordship's despatch of the 10th instant, inclosing copy of Lord Dufferin's despatch of the 21st ultimo, relative to the arrest of certain persons in Old Servia on the charge of conspiracy against the Porte, his Lordship had already kindly forwarded to me a copy of it, and I had communicated the substance of its contents unofficially to M. Pirochanatz.

His Excellency, who appeared gratified at the attention, said that he had been made aware of the arrests at the time that they were effected, but that although he believed that there had been no real conspiracy, and that the poor men were only the victims of the machinations of a paid spy, himself a renegade, he had not deemed it wise, as I could readily understand, to make any appeal to the Porte on their behalf; he would, however, ask me, if I had no objection, to leave with him Mr. Baker's despatch which had first directed attention to the matter, and which contained a list of the men's names, and he would bring what had passed to the knowledge of the King, who would be equally grateful with himself for this additional and spontaneous proof of the interest of England in the fate of all those who suffer oppression.

It was my intention to acquaint Lord Dufferin, on his return to Constantinople, with the way in which the intimation of what he had done had been received here, but as the matter is now within your Lordship's knowledge, it will perhaps be sufficient for me to leave to your Lordship the communication to him of this despatch in case you should think fit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 107.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 2.)

(Extract.) *Scutari, November 10, 1882.*

I THINK it right to report to your Lordship that, notwithstanding the representations made by Her Majesty's Ambassador, absolutely nothing has been done or attempted by the Turkish authorities during these twelve months to remedy matters, or to obviate the political dangers which threaten the Sultan's dominions in North Albania.

Perhaps the Porte may fancy that because it has had no active insurrectionary movement to suppress, nor to drive out armed intruders, its administration is in a satisfactory state. Nevertheless, the decay has continued; the want of government is still more apparent; and the desire for a change, arrive whence it may, is daily becoming more general.

The Governors, Military Commanders, and others sent from Constantinople to fill offices, are, as a rule, intellectually deficient and morally weak. They fear complaints being made against them to the Central Government, and consequently endeavour, by tolerating lawless exactions, to secure the support of native bravos and bullies capable of stifling by judicious threats any local desire to appeal for redress to the capital.

In Jacova, Ipek, Prisrend, and other centres in the Kossovo Vilayet, Christian merchants and artizans attend the bazaars, at the risk of their lives, on the bought protection of some desperado, or else remain idle at home until an opportunity offers for removal to some safer country. Even Mahommedans, who are not prepared to fight, have to submit to exactions, and travelling has to be performed in caravans of large bodies of armed men.

Until lately the town of Scutari, although evidently considered a convenient and safe place for the settlement of blood-feuds and private quarrels, had still not come under the influence of lawless ruffians. The favour, however, now extended to such persons by the authorities has quickly brought the town on a level with those of the KossovoVilayet, and the native Christians have to seek the safety of their houses shortly after sunset, and secretly purchase immunity from too general exactions by constituting themselves the tributaries of some Bey or Agha

notoriously favoured by one or other of the officials of the konak (Government House).

The entrance of a bravo into a shop is the signal for a general stampede of the customers, and the shopkeeper has to submit to the rifling of his till, or, if meagre, to give up his watch, or provide within a fixed term whatever is required of him. Appeals for protection have more than once been made to me by the victims of these robberies, but I have been unable to assist them, knowing full well the difficulty I should have to secure justice or protection for even those who can legally claim my interference.

In the rural districts the sentences of the Courts are seldom executed, and the payment of tithes and other taxes is there becoming almost optional. The police, and even the regular troops, are withdrawn the moment a sign of resistance is observed.

The authorities may, by this process of doing nothing, truly boast that they encounter no difficulties in carrying on their administration. Their system, however, is rapidly teaching the North Albanians that the only obstacle to proper government is the presence in the country of the Turkish officials, and that their disappearance would at once be replaced by public safety and justice.

When I first came to this country, seven years ago, the hatred for the Slavs was intense; now the material progress made by Servia and Montenegro, and the orderly government carried on there, are openly envied, and a time is being looked forward to when, perhaps, by annexation, if no other way is available, North Albania may come in for a share of those advantages.

No. 108.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 27, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship of the 21st October last respecting certain persons imprisoned at Pristina, I have the honour to state that the question having been again brought to my notice by Mr. Blunt in his despatch of the 9th instant, I have renewed my representations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and called the attention of his Excellency to the alarm caused by the arrests made in the Vilayet of Korsova at the instigation of the renegade, Omer Effendi. His Excellency will accordingly telegraph to the Vali of Korsova, instructing him to inquire carefully into and report upon the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 109.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 5, 1882.*

I HAVE to call your attention to Mr. K. Green's despatch of the 10th ultimo relative to the continued lawless condition of North Albania, and to instruct you to bring to the notice of the Porte the serious state of affairs therein described.

Although the evil results which cannot fail to ensue as regards the authority of the Porte over the district in question are sufficiently obvious, and representations on the subject were made a year ago by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Turkish Prime Minister, as reported in Lord Dufferin's despatch of the 15th November, 1881, nothing whatever has been done since that time, and no effort has been made to check the abuses to which attention was then called.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 110.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 6, 11·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 6, 1882, 7·30 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has promised me to write to the Governor-General of Scutari respecting the insecurity of life and the apathy of the local authorities there, and with regard to the unfriendly attitude of the officials, complained of by Mr. Kirby Green in his despatch to your Lordship of the 10th ultimo.

I have informed Mr. Kirby Green.

No. 111.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 18.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 11, 1882.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that I spoke again to-day to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and also to the Grand Vizier with reference to the apathetic conduct of the authorities at Scutari, as represented by Mr. Kirby Green, and I was informed that the information received at the Porte respecting their conduct coincided with that which had reached me, that efficacious measures were to be adopted to remedy the evils complained of, and that the dismissal of the Vali of Scutari had been submitted for the sanction of His Majesty the Sultan.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs also assured me, in reply to my inquiry, that he had written to the authorities at Scutari to be friendly towards Mr. Kirby Green, for which I expressed my best thanks to his Excellency.

I have communicated this intelligence to Mr. Green.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 112.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 20.)

My Lord, *Scutari, December* 7, 1882.

DURING the last ten days four assassinations have been perpetrated in Scutari which have attracted more than usual local attention through the standing of the victims and the aggravated attitude of helplessness assumed by the authorities.

The victims were a policeman, a Mussulman shop-keeper, a Chief belonging to the village of Triepsci, now in Montenegrin territory, and Salih Agha, the Bash Boluk Bashi, or Chief of the Mussulman Government Representatives of the Roman Catholic tribes. The authors of the murders seem to have all been Christian mountain clansmen.

It is rumoured that the assassination of the Triepsci Chief was a political affair, as, through his having cordially accepted Montenegrin rule and entered the Prince's service, he was looked upon in the light of a traitor by the Scutari authorities and Mussulmans. I have not yet heard that the Montenegrin Government has lodged a complaint concerning this murder.

Salih Agha was one of the most influential of the Mahommedan noblemen of the town, and, through his office of head representative with the Government of the mountain tribes, was considered, in local estimation, to occupy a position little inferior to that of the Vali.

At a public meeting held to-day by the Mussulmans, it was pointed out that the weakness of the Turkish Administration was proving itself a much greater danger for the Mahommedans than the Christians, for, although it might seem pleasant for some few lawless characters to levy with impunity black mail on the town rayahs, yet the mountaineers were now clearly demonstrating their superior powers for mischief.

Allusion was also made to the reported appeal for protection addressed by the North Albanian tribesmen to the Emperor of Austria, and to the door which misgovernment had opened for foreign interference.

I understand that an influential deputation afterwards conveyed an intimation to Abdi Pasha, the Vali, that active steps should be taken to maintain public security, or that his Excellency should make known to the Porte his inability to properly govern the province.

Abdi Pasha promised to concert both with the Mussulmans and the mountain Chiefs as to the steps which ought to be adopted for asserting the power of the authorities; but I am confidentially told that his Excellency is sufficiently simple to consider that the North Albanians will only tolerate Turkish rule as long as they are left in a quasi-state of anarchy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 113.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 1, 1883.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 23, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I to-day brought the substance of Mr. Green's despatch of the 10th ultimo on the serious abuses which exist in Northern Albania to the notice of the Grand Vizier, and that I begged his Highness to make a note of the names of the towns in the Kossova Vilayet mentioned by Mr. Green, which he did.

Said Pasha assured me that the matter had been under the serious consideration of the Council of Ministers, and that he was of opinion that the measures they had decided upon would be sufficient to restore order.

I have already in my despatch of the 11th instant informed your Lordship that in consequence of Mr. Kirby Green's Report I had brought the apathy of the authorities at Scutari to the notice of the Porte, and that I had been assured that the Vali was to be dismissed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 114.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 6, 1883.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, December* 31, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd ultimo on the subject of the treatment of numerous Christian inhabitants of Old Servia who had been arrested more than a year ago on a charge of conspiracy against the Porte, I regret to say that I had the painful duty yesterday of communicating to the wife of one of them, a schoolmaster, the intelligence that her husband had been banished for ten years to the fortress of Acre. In his case the sentence will probably prove to be one of slow death.

I spoke in the evening with my Turkish colleague on the subject of these exiles. He was apparently well acquainted with the matter. He said that the whole lot of them had been sent to the large fortress of Acre, where they would find plenty of work, and a hot and unhealthy climate. I fear my endeavours to interest him in their favour, with a view to his exerting on their behalf any interest he might have with his Government, were thrown away. His Excellency himself had apparently had some hand in their arrest; he believed the evidence of the twice renegade spy who had denounced them to the Ottoman authorities; he considered their guilt had been abundantly proved, and appeared to regret only the lightness of their sentence.

In the course of the conversation his Excellency told me that if his Government had shown less tender-heartedness towards the miscreants who fomented the disturbances which had led to the last war the Empire would not have been dismembered as it was to-day; that the Porte was wiser now, and would not forget the lesson which had been taught it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 115.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received January 8, 1883.)

Constantinople, December 30, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I yesterday put into Aarifi Pasha's hands the Memorandum his Highness had asked for, giving the substance of Mr. Kirby Green's despatch respecting the murders which have recently taken place at Scutari, in Albania.

Aarifi Pasha, after having read the Memorandum, stated to me that he considered the question of the murders to be of so serious a nature that it would not, in his opinion, be sufficient for him to address a despatch on the subject to the Vali of Scutari. His Highness therefore proposes to bring the facts to the knowledge of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 116.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received January 12, 1883.)

Salonica, December 31, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a letter and its inclosure which I have received from the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Salonica Mining Company (Limited), thanking his Excellency Ghalib Pasha for the precautionary measures taken by him in rendering the mining district secure from brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 116.

Lord Belper to Consul-General Blunt.

The Salonica Mining Company (Limited), 2, East India Avenue, Leadenhall Street, November 24, 1882.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Board of Directors of this Company to tender you their sincere thanks for the prompt measures you have been good enough to take in respect of the threats of brigandage in the neighbourhood where the Company's mines are situated, and, at the same time, to ask you to be good enough to present the inclosed letter of thanks from the Board of Directors to his Excellency Ghalib Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BELPER, *Chairman.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 116.

Lord Belper to Ghalib Pasha.

The Salonica Mining Company (Limited), 2, East India Avenue, Leadenhall Street, November 24, 1882.

Excellency,

THE Board of Directors of this Company beg respectfully to tender to you their sincere thanks for the very prompt and energetic steps you have been good enough to take in arresting the men at Paprat who threatened brigandage, and for the precautionary measures which have since had such an excellent effect in restoring quiet to that part of the country where the Company's mines are situated. The expenditure of the Company's capital in the mines they are now working must necessarily be of great benefit to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, and if security of life and property can be maintained, the Company will be prepared to

extend very considerably their area of operations, which will bring a proportionate increase of the income of the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BELPER, *Chairman.*

No. 117.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

Foreign Office, January 19, 1883.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade* relative to the punishment which has been inflicted by the Turkish Government upon certain Christian inhabitants of Old Servia, on whose behalf a representation was made to the Porte by the Earl of Dufferin, as reported in his despatch of the 21st October last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 118.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

Foreign Office, January 30, 1883.

Sir,

I FORWARDED to you, in my despatch of the 19th instant, copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade on the subject of the punishment to which certain inhabitants of Old Servia have been condemned for alleged conspiracy against the Turkish Government.

The harsh treatment to which they were subjected at Pristina induced the Earl of Dufferin, as he reported in his despatch of the 21st October, to make representations to the Porte, and his Excellency obtained a promise that a communication in their favour would be addressed to the local authorities.

Nevertheless, a sentence has been passed upon them, that of banishment to the fortress of Acre, which is described as equivalent to slow death.

Her Majesty's Government are not aware that any grave offence was proved against them, even if the evidence of a renegade spy can be accepted as trustworthy. I have accordingly to instruct you to remind the Porte of the promise to which I have referred, and to use your best endeavours to obtain some mitigation of the punishment which it is proposed to inflict on these unfortunate people.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 119.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 1.)

Scutari, January 17, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed this day by me to Mr. Wyndham on the continuance of lawlessness in Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Wyndham.

Scutari, January 17, 1883.

Sir,

THE state of lawlessness in Scutari, now so often the theme of my Reports to Lord Granville and yourself, continues, and as yet there are no indications here of

* No. 114.

the removal of Abdi Pasha, which the Porte informed you six weeks ago had been decided upon by the Council of State.

On the 13th instant M. le Rée, the French Consul, who was walking with his Italian and Hellenic colleagues, and passing in front of this Consulate-General, was knocked against by the son of one of the most influential Mahommedan Nobles of the place, who was followed by an armed attendant. M. le Rée pushed the native aside, whereupon both he and his servant drew their pistols, but observing the resolute stand of the French Consul returned them to their girdles, and then went a short distance off, as if to await a more convenient moment for renewing the attack.

M. de Donato and M. Marinakis induced M. le Rée to abstain from taking any further notice of the two men, and to leave the matter in the hands of the local authorities.

The two men the next day surrendered themselves to the police, and have since been kept under arrest.

On the 14th another scene of violence had to be recorded.

The Roman Catholic native merchants, to shelter themselves from the exactions of the Mussulman bullies, had lately secured the services of two Christian mountaineers of known courage. The success attending this step greatly irritated the Mahommedans and local authorities, and I immediately divined, when I heard a sharp fusillade and observed a considerable commotion in town, that the two mountaineers were being made away with.

It is asserted by those who have inquired into the matter, that the clansmen were unnecessarily shot down by the zaptieh and regular troops, and that the only pretext put forward for killing them was that they were tipsy, and had refused to surrender quietly.

The summary execution of these two men I consider one of the everyday matters of Scutari, and I only report it, as their disappearance from the scene has at once encouraged the bullies protected by Abdi Pasha to renew their exactions and acts of violence against the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 120.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received February 1.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 22, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th November last, I have the honour to state that the Minister for Foreign Affairs has received a Report from the Vali of Kossova on the subject of the complaints of ill-treatment of Christians which have been preferred against a certain Omer Effendi, and to which my attention was called by Mr. Consul-General Blunt.

From this Report it would appear that Omer Effendi is a Servian spy who fled from his country about ten months ago, and gave information, which subsequently proved correct, to the Ottoman authorities, of Bulgarian and Servian intrigues. On the adoption by him of the Mussulman religion Omer Effendi was appointed a secret agent, and in that capacity he appears to have discovered revolutionary documents in the hands of Christian inhabitants in the Vilayet of Kossova. Several arrests were made in consequence, some of the accused being subsequently released, and the remainder are now detained in custody pending their trial.

From the above Report, the substance of which I have likewise communicated to Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, it would appear that Omer Effendi is employed as an agent of law and justice, and not as a persecutor of the peaceful population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 121.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received February 12.)

My Lord, *Salonica, January 29, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of the despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the subject of the improved state of affairs in Epirus and Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 121.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Salonica, January 29, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report that tranquillity prevails in Catterina and other districts bordering on the Greek frontier, and that since November last the Vilayet of Salonica, with the exception of some districts in the vicinity of the Bulgarian border, has been free from acts of brigandage and other serious crimes.

The state of public security has also improved in the Vilayets of Epirus, Monastir, and Kossova. The authorities in the latter vilayet have captured a large number of marauders, principally Albanians, and exiled most of them to Anatolia; and I am glad to add that their efforts to establish order in the districts bordering on Servia are now supported by the Servian frontier authorities. The inclosed translated extract from the "Cossova Gazette" furnishes some information on the subject.

On the other hand, I regret having to report that Bulgarian brigands continue their movements in the vicinity of the border, exposing the peasantry to depredations, and keeping them in a state of disquietude.

The Turkish authorities declare that this state of things is encouraged by certain parties in Kostendil and Dubnitza in Bulgaria, and attribute their inability to thoroughly cope with it to the inefficient manner in which the Bulgarian border police perform their duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 121.

Extract from the "Cossova Gazette" of December 28, 1882.

(Translation.)

ON the 5th April, 1297, last year, Ahmed Nedjib Effendi, a Muhadjir of the district of Orcub, went to his farm situated in that district, accompanied by Orcubly Dervish, son of Ibisch, and a clerk and gendarme he had received from the local Natchalnik, for the purpose of dividing the lands he had there under his own cultivation and selling them. Having finished the business they were returning, when at a place near the town eight or ten Servians came in front of their arabas and shot Nedjib Effendi and his companion, Dervish. On information then given by Nedjib Effendi's brother at Pristina, to the effect that money (more than 350 ducats) and other property had been stolen, a correspondence between the Vali and Ministry of Foreign Affairs arose, and the result of the effective representations made by the Ministry to the Servian Government through the medium of the Imperial Legation at Belgrade was, that two of the murderers of these two persons were sentenced to twelve years' penal servitude, two others to ten years' imprisonment, and one to one year's imprisonment. As only a watch and a revolver were found on each of the murdered men, Nedjib Effendi's watch was given to his relation, Newzad Bey, and the revolver to Ibrahim, who proved that it was his. Dervish's watch and revolver being actually in the keeping of the Toplidja authorities, their delivery to the Imperial Legation has been demanded.

From an answer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is understood that on their arrival they will be sent to Pristina to be handed over to his heirs.

If the Servian Government carefully takes into consideration the great importance of punishing a number of Servian ruffians who never fail to perpetuate every kind of villainy on Moslems who, from time to time, go to Servia to sell their lands and property on the other side of the border, and hastens to comply with the necessities of justice, as is done on our side, in such cases it acts in accordance with the requirements of humanity and justice. For it is unnecessary for us to define and explain the extent of the useful and beneficial results that will necessarily be produced on both sides by the execution of measures for the fitting punishment of such scoundrels, or of the harm that would be caused were the reverse policy adopted. Consequently, we hope that the Servians will, please God, continue to put a stop to connivance at such actions, and respect the rights of neighbours.

No. 122.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 12.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 5, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 19th ultimo, in which my attention is called to a despatch addressed to your Lordship on the 31st December by Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade relative to the punishment inflicted on certain Christian inhabitants of Old Servia by the Turkish authorities. In my despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I had the honour of stating the defence put forward by the Ottoman authorities on behalf of a certain Omer Effendi, against whom charges had been brought of cruelty and oppression in dealing with the Christian inhabitants in the district of Kossova, who were suspected of intriguing against the Turkish Government, and I now beg to inclose a copy of a Report, which has been unofficially given to me, and which I request may be considered as strictly confidential, addressed on the 1st December last to the Vali of Kossova by the President of the Court-martial charged with the duty of trying the Christians in question, in which full details of the conduct of Omer Effendi are given, and in which his Excellency maintains that the proceedings of the Court were conducted with perfect regularity and regard for equity.

I have directed Mr. Blunt to endeavour to ascertain where the prisoners have been sent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Report.

NOUS avons pris connaissance de la communication du Ministère de Affaires Étrangères que votre Excellence a bien voulu référér à la cour martiale. Dans cette communication il est dit que sur les excitations et intrigues d'un certain Omer Effendi plusieurs arrestations ont été opérées et qu'elles auront pour résultat d'alarmer et de mécontenter les populations d'Uscup, Pristina, Komanova, et de tous les autres districts du Vilayet et qu'à la fin les Notables de la population se verront forcés d'émigrer en Serbie et en Bulgarie. Si cette nouvelle, ajoute le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, est vraie, elle mérite d'être prise en sérieuse considération mais avant d'envoyer un fonctionnaire spécial pour ouvrir une enquête, il importe, conclut cette communication, de procéder immédiatement aux investigations nécessaires à ce sujet et de rapporter le résultat de l'enquête au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, en lui fournissant en même temps tous les éclaircissements qu'exige le cas.

En réponse, nous avons l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que le susdit Omer Effendi est originaire du village de Gholine, dépendance du Vilayet de Monastir. Il se nommait Hadji Kureeh Oghlou Nicola. Il y a dix mois, il est entré au service du Gouvernement Impérial. L'autorité militaire l'a nommé Premier Espion à Vrania. Pendant qu'il exerçait ses fonctions, il a signalé à

l'attention du Gouvernement des individus habitants Chrétiens de ces parages, qui, selon ses informations, travaillaient secrètement contre le Gouvernement Impérial en vue de créer un soulèvement et rechercher ainsi les moyens propres à amener l'annexion de la Macédoine à la Serbie et à la Bulgarie, et entretenaient des correspondances dans ce but avec des fonctionnaires de ces deux Gouvernements. Omer Effendi nous a déclaré que son intention était de s'établir définitivement en Turquie. Nous avons fait des investigations, soumis à l'interrogatoire et instruit le procès des individus dont il nous avait signalé le nom et qui appartiennent à la population des districts de Pristina, d'Uscup, de Komanova, d'Ashbet, et de Vettchisin. Le résultat de l'instruction a prouvé que réellement ces individus conspiraient contre le Gouvernement Impérial et qu'ils étaient en correspondance avec des fonctionnaires des deux susdits Gouvernements, qu'ils prêtaient leur assistance aux brigands qui avaient pénétré de la Bulgarie dans le Sandjak d'Uscup et agissaient dans un sens révolutionnaire. En conséquence, des sentences ont été rendues contre eux. Nous avons soumis ces sentences au Ministère de la Guerre, qui les a soumises à Sa Majesté le Sultan et un Iradé Impérial a confirmé les peines infligées à ces individus.

Omer Effendi nous a signalé aussi des individus habitants des Vilayets de Salonique et de Monastir qui conspiraient et a fait voir la nature de leurs menées et intrigues. Il s'agissait de correspondances échangées en vue d'amener l'annexion de la Macédoine, et pour prouver son assertion Omer Effendi a exhibé les lettres de quelques fonctionnaires Serbes. L'autorité a compris que cet individu savait les menées secrètes des habitants Chrétiens de ces parages, et vu la situation délicate des localités ainsi que la proximité des frontières Serbes et Bulgares, l'autorité a reconnu la nécessité d'employer comme agent secret une telle personne qui connaissait la situation.

Dernièrement, sur l'avis d'Omer Effendi que des individus conspiraient dans le Sandjak d'Uscup, nous l'y avons envoyé pour ouvrir une enquête. Le résultat des recherches a mis en évidence des documents imprimés et autres constatant des menées contre le Gouvernement en vue d'amener un soulèvement. Ces documents ont été trouvés en la possession de quelques-uns des habitants d'Ishtep, Komanova, Veradichta, Kotchana, et de Caratova. Les individus impliqués dans ces manœuvres ont été amenés à Kossova pour être interrogés. Ceux contre lesquels il n'y a pas eu de preuves suffisantes de culpabilité sont renvoyés dans leurs foyers pour être mis en liberté. Ceux sur lesquels pèsent encore des accusations continuent à subir leur interrogatoire pour compléter l'instruction du procès.

Par ce qui précède votre Excellence voudra bien reconnaître que notre conduite n'est pas de nature à créer, comme on le prétend, l'alarme parmi les populations. Les investigations auxquelles se livre la cour martiale sont faites dans les limites de la loi et le Tribunal agit avec équité.

Le 1er Décembre, 1882.

No. 123.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 26.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 17, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 30th ultimo, I have made a fresh representation to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs in favour of the Christians, inhabitants of Old Servia, who were imprisoned at Kossova and condemned for alleged conspiracy against the Ottoman Government. I reminded Aarifi Pasha that the harsh treatment to which they had been subjected had already induced Her Majesty's Embassy to make an appeal to the Sublime Porte in their favour, and that a promise had on that occasion been given to the Earl of Dufferin that a communication in their behalf should be addressed to the local authorities. I added that Her Majesty's Government were not aware that any grave offence had been proved against them, even if the evidence of a renegade spy could be accepted as trustworthy, and I made a strong appeal to his Highness to cause some mitigation to be made in the punishment it was proposed to inflict upon them.

In making these representations, I handed to Aarifi Pasha a *pro-memorid* on the subject, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and his Highness, at my

request, caused it to be translated at once, and submitted to the consideration of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Pro-memorid.

L'AMBASSADE de Sa Majesté Britannique avait été informée que le Vali du Vilayet de Kossova, agissant sous l'instigation d'un certain Omer Effendi, renégat, avait, opéré une foule d'arrestations parmi les habitants de l'ancienne Serbie qui avaient justement alarmé et mécontenté les habitants paisibles de ces contrées, et que les accusés avaient été déférés par devant la cour martiale siégeant à Kossova pour être jugés et subir leur condamnation.

Dans le courant du mois d'Octobre dernier Lord Dufferin avait eu l'honneur de faire des représentations à la Sublime Porte en vue d'obtenir que les individus accusés d'avoir conspiré contre le Gouvernement Ottoman fussent traités sans cruauté.

La Sublime Porte, mue par un sentiment d'humanité, avait bien voulu promettre à sa Seigneurie d'écrire aux autorités compétentes afin d'obtenir que le traitement pénitencier de ces individus, dont plusieurs gisaient aussi dans les prisons de Salonique et de Pristina, ne fut pas aussi cruel qu'on avait des motifs sérieux pour le croire.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ignore si les graves délits politiques qui leur sont imputés ont pu être prouvés et quand même le témoignage d'un espion renégat soit admis comme digne de foi, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté a donné pour instructions à cette Ambassade de rappeler à la Sublime Porte sa promesse, en la priant de vouloir bien donner les ordres nécessaires pour que l'on mitige les punitions que l'on se propose d'infliger à ces malheureux, dont la plupart semblent avoir été condamnés à la déportation dans la forteresse de St. Jean d'Acre, qui équivaudrait à une condamnation de mort lente.

No. 124.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 5.)

My Lord, *Salonica, February* 19, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit, for the information of your Lordship, the accompanying copy of a letter which I have to-day received from Mr. Capety at Serres, furnishing some information respecting the preparations which are made in Bulgaria for an insurrectionary movement in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 124.

Mr. Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le* 15 *Février*, 1883.

JE m'empresse de vous faire part de ce qui suit.

Un Comité Bulgare presse les Bulgares de Macédoine émigrés en Bulgarie de quitter la Bulgarie ou de s'enrôler pour une invasion en Macédoine projetée, dit on, pour le printemps. Les jeunes gens qui s'enrôlent pour ce service doivent prêter serment, et le Comité Exécutif s'oblige de subvenir aux besoins des familles de ceux qui mouriraient dans ces opérations.

Il y a quelque temps le chef brigand, Zumbil, de Vrondú, a écrit de Bulgarie au Mudir de Vrondú, lui ordonnant de mettre en liberté son frère Georges Zumbil,

déporté à Salonique, le menaçant d'incendier et de massacrer le village entier si la mise en liberté de son frère n'a pas lieu. Il demande en même temps une certaine somme d'argent.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. CAPETY.

No. 125.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 5.)

My Lord, *Salonica, February* 20, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of my despatch of this date to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, reporting the information which the Vali of Salonica has received relative to the existence of a secret organization in Bulgaria for the purpose of fomenting disturbances in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Salonica, February* 20, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to further report that the Vali, Ghalib Pasha, has received information from a confidential source at Kustendil that a secret organization exists in Bulgaria for getting up an insurrectionary movement in Macedonia; that armed bands are being formed in Kustendil and Dubnitza for that object; and that, with a view to excite the sympathy and intervention of the Great Powers, emissaries will be employed to get Petitions signed by the Macedonian Bulgarians, praying the foreign Consuls at Salonica and Monastir to afford them protection against Turkish misrule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 126.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 6, 1883.

I HAVE to express my approval of the representations which you have made to Aarifi Pasha on behalf of the Christian inhabitants of Old Servia, imprisoned for alleged conspiracy against the Turkish Government, as reported in your despatch of the 17th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 127.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received April 2.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 27, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on the 22nd instant I received a telegram from Mr. Kirby Green, informing me that on the afternoon of the 21st instant a brother of Verbitza, the Montenegrin ex-Minister of the Interior, was shot dead by six Albanians in the bazaar at Scutari, and adding that there appeared to be no other motive for this act than to embroil matters with Montenegro.

I at once brought the news I had received of this murder to the knowledge of

Aarifi Pasha, who had no intelligence on the subject, and his Highness immediately elegraphed to the Governor-General of Scutari for information, expressing to Sir Alfred Sandison, who was the bearer of my message, regret at the occurrence, as being calculated to aggravate the situation along the Montenegrin frontier, where fighting, he said, though on a very small scale, had taken place between the Montenegrins and Albanians.

I have since received two more telegrams from Mr. Green, in which he states that the crime announced in his first telegram was perpetrated in order to avenge the death of two mountaineers who were shot by Montenegrins, and that all Montenegrins in the Province of Scutari have returned home, in obedience to peremptory orders from Cettinjé, and in consequence also of directions to them from the Vali to leave the town.

Mr. Green expresses the opinion in one of his telegrams that the fact of both sides ignoring the existence of Turkish authority can only end in serious complications, and that the Porte ought to comprehend the danger of maintaining incapable officials in North Albania.

Your Lordship is aware that I have not ceased urging the Porte to remove Abdi Pasha, and I learnt yesterday, confidentially, from the Porte, that it is chiefly owing to my representations and complaints as to his Excellency's incapacity that the Governor-General of Janina, Achmet Rassim Pasha, has been ordered to proceed to the Scutari Vilayet, in order to institute an inquiry into the unsatisfactory state of affairs prevailing there.

Mr. Green also reports to me that two of the Sultan's aides-de-camp were expected at Scutari on the 28th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

P.S.—I have, since writing the above, received a further telegram from Mr. Green, reporting that the Turkish authorities have been informed that the Montenegrins landed yesterday in force at Casteven, and that fighting is going on.

H. W.

No. 128.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 6.)

Salonica, March 28, 1883.

My Lord,

HAVING heard from various sources that disturbances had occurred not very long ago in Dibra, I have endeavoured to procure reliable information on the subject.

I also regret having to report to your Lordship that it appears from information that has come to my knowledge that the condition of affairs in Ipek and other districts in Upper Albania which are included in the Vilayet of Cossova has again become very unsettled.

I am assured that within the last six months there have been many cases of deliberate murder and assassination, and that generally a strong feeling of insubordination prevails among the Mahommedan Albanians against the Ottoman authorities.

For instance, the Albanians of Ipek have laid an embargo on a quantity of wheat and Indian corn which was bought and stored in that town by a Salonica Bey, and prohibit its sale to the Montenegrin villagers, who at this season are in great need of breadstuffs.

The Bey appealed for assistance to the military authorities, who declined to interfere, and strongly advised the Bey to leave the district.

Some few months ago a certain Imam Moussa assassinated in open day a Turkish functionary, the President of the Civil and Criminal Court at Ipek, and subsequently tried to murder his victim's wife, and yet no attempt has been made by the local authorities to apprehend the murderer, who is allowed to be at large in the town.

Six weeks ago two well-to-do Christians of Ipek were wantonly murdered, one of them by an Albanian zaptieh. The authors of this outrage are still at large, although the Alai Bey, or Chief of the Police of the Vilayet of Cossova, was

at Ipek during this occurrence, acting as Mutessarif in the room of Ali Pasha of Gussinjé.

But the following incident demonstrates still more forcibly the refractory and rebellious spirit of the people, and the irresolute and feeble administration of the Vali of Cossova.

Dranista, and some twenty other Mahommedan villages which are included in the district of Vucitrin in the Vilayet of Cossova, refuse to pay the Government taxes or to acknowledge the authority of the Sub-Governor until they are placed under the Mutessarif of Ipek, the Albanian Chief, Ali Pasha of Gussinjé.

Although these villages are all within easy distance of Vucitrin and Mitrovitza, their inhabitants prefer to be administratively connected with the more distant district of Ipek, and with the party there interested in the maintenance of a chronic state of disorder.

The Vali of Cossova has taken no action in this matter further than to commission some members of his Medjliss to proceed to the spot and exhort the villagers to recognize and respect his authority, but uselessly, for his delegates returned from their mission and assured his Excellency that the people had assumed a very menacing attitude, and appeared determined to have their own way, *vi et armis*, if necessary.

My informant states that if even the Pasha of Cossova were a resolute man, the military force at his disposal is insufficient for the purpose of acting with decision and success against these Albanians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 129.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 16.)

Constantinople, April 9, 1883.

My Lord,

IN my despatch of the 27th ultimo, I informed your Lordship that the Vali of Janina had been ordered to the Vilayet of Scutari in order to institute an inquiry into the unsatisfactory state of affairs prevailing there.

I now learn that his Excellency left Janina for Scutari on the 24th ultimo, and that Izzeh Pasha, who arrived at Janina from Constantinople on the 22nd ultimo, will take charge of his post during his temporary absence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 130.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

Foreign Office, April 20, 1883.

Sir,

YOU will have received copy of a despatch, with its inclosures (of the 28th ultimo), from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting upon the unsettled condition of affairs in Dibra and other districts in Upper Albania.

Mr. Blunt in that despatch calls attention to the strong feeling of insubordination among the Mahommedan Albanians against the Ottoman authorities, who seem to be powerless and incapable of keeping order. From the information obtained by Mr. Blunt on the subject, it appears that the Albanians have assumed a threatening attitude towards the Christian shopkeepers in Dibra, and that various acts of forcible expulsion, and even of murder, have taken place.

I have to request you to communicate the substance of those Reports to the Sublime Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 131.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received April 24.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, April* 18, 1883.

I SEE from Mr. Wyndham's despatch of the 17th February to your Lordship that he had, by instructions, made a fresh representation to the Sublime Porte in favour of the Christian inhabitants of Old Servia, condemned for alleged conspiracy against the Ottoman Government.

I am not aware of the result of this last appeal, but judging from the fact that hitherto the Porte has been content with transmitting to the Embassy the reports of the authorities whose action has been the ground of these complaints, and marking its approval by confirming the severe sentences passed on the arrested persons, I am not very confident of a satisfactory issue.

In the meantime, it is my duty to apprize your Lordship that the information which continues to reach me does not bear out that which Mr. Wyndham has received from the Porte, but, on the contrary, is to the effect that under the semblance of law there has been a system of unjust and cruel persecution against men whose chief crime has been discontent under the Ottoman rule, and that this has been going on almost wholly at the instigation of an individual whose antecedents should have rendered him a subject of suspicion to his last-found employers, but in whom the Turkish Government can only see a zealous and trusty servant.

The system (not a very new one) which seems to have been adopted is this: on the secret information of the renegade spy, Omer Effendi, apparently peaceful individuals are arrested, thrown into unhealthy prisons, subjected to severe private examinations, tried by military Tribunals, and without having had counsel to defend them or the opportunity of calling witnesses, without, in fact, having had any of the advantages of a public trial, are sentenced to incarceration in foul cells or in the casements of pestiferous fortresses for terms of eight and ten years. Who is to hear of them during that time? And supposing they live to leave their dungeons, what chance is there of their story then receiving attention?

Your Lordship will recollect that one of these arrested Christian subjects of the Porte, in whose fate special interest was taken at Belgrade, was one George Kampérélitch, a Professor for the last ten years in the public seminary of Prisrend in Old Servia. In that capacity he seems to have gained the respect of those with whom he came in contact, and he had also many friends in this country. In the beginning of last year we received the news that, at the instigation of the notorious Omer, he had been arrested on the charge of conspiracy against the Ottoman Government. After passing several months in the prisons of Prisrend and Pristina along with others who had been arrested on similar charges by the same Omer, and two of whom died during the time of gaol-fever, he was condemned to ten years' hard labour in the fortress of Acre, and a few days later was seen by his young wife being conducted as a felon in handcuffs through the principal streets of Pristina, with the sentence of the Court hung round his neck. He remained a month in the prison at Salonica, and, the efforts which had been made here and at Constantinople to save him having proved wholly ineffectual, he was finally sent off to his destination in Asia. His wife had come to Belgrade, where she made a final and ineffectual appeal to my Turkish colleague to save what she well knew was the life of her husband.

I cannot help saying that it was with a feeling of considerable satisfaction that I received a few days ago a visit from this lady, accompanied by a man whom she presented to me as her lost husband, and that I listened to the narrative of his escape from his impending doom.

The charge brought against him by Omer was that he was a Servian spy; that he carried on a political correspondence with persons in this country; that he had visited Belgrade during the vacation in 1880, and on that occasion had been received by Prince Milan, who had given him 200 ducats and decorated him with the cross of the Takovo; that he had also visited several civil and military personages of high position in Belgrade; and, lastly, that he was at the head of a revolutionary committee, and was employing Servian money to excite an insurrection against the Ottoman Government. He affirms that just before the sentence was passed on him he was offered by the Court-martial, not only free pardon, but employment and high pay if he would denounce all those of his friends who had political relations with Servia.

Having refused these blandishments sentence was passed on him, and he was embarked on the 2nd November for Smyrna, and from there in a French vessel, the "Seine," for Acre, in charge of a Turkish gendarme, a native of the Herzegovina. During the voyage, the gaoler and his captive arranged to run away together, so, instead of landing at Acre, they went on to Alexandria. From that port George Kampérélitch, leaving his friend to dispose of himself otherwise, proceeded to Corfu, and thence to Cettinjé, where he presented himself to the authorities and asked for a passport and a little money to go to Servia. He was not only refused both, but was ordered at once to leave the country. Having done so, and proceeded as far as Cattaro, he was, in consequence of a telegram from Cettinjé, arrested on the charge of having been engaged in the Herzegovinian insurrection. He was fortunately allowed to send a telegram to Belgrade to apprize his friends of his position, and through the good offices of my Austrian colleague he was soon set at liberty, and provided with a passport to come to Belgrade.

M. Kampérélitch has drawn up and presented to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a Report, stating what he knows as to the treatment and fate of a few of his late fellow prisoners, all of whom seemed to have owed their arrest to the denunciations of the renegade, Omer. The Minister has had the kindness to furnish me with a translation of this Report, of which I am therefore enabled to transmit a copy to your Lordship. It present a revolting picture of the system of terrorism exercised by the Courts-martial with the assistance of their spy, Omer, a man in whom are apparently combined the fanatical hatred of the religious renegade and the cruel zeal of the hired informer. With a shamelessness, of which probably few of even that class would be capable, he seems to have made it one of the grounds of accusation against his victims that at some former period, in their capacity of innkeepers, they extended their hospitality to him, although well aware that he was then a spy of Servia, engaged in intrigues against the Ottoman Government. One unfortunate man thus accused appears to have been condemned to fifteen years of hard labour. Several of the charges brought against his victims refer to acts alleged to have been committed by them during the last war between Servia and Turkey, in forgetfulness, I imagine, of the Treaty of Peace, and of the rules usually observed after civilized warfare. M. Kampérélitch mentions cases of torture being inflicted to compel the prisoners to denounce their friends, but he himself escaped this sort of secret examination.

M. Kampérélitch's statement will possibly be received with a simple denial. It is as easy to deny as it is, under such circumstances, difficult to prove. The things here spoken of are done within prison walls where there are none to witness them, or before special military Tribunals from which witnesses for the defence, the public, the reporter, and the bar are equally excluded; the unfortunate victims disappear usually for ever from view. It is rarely that, as in the present case, a prisoner who has been sent to wear out his life within the baking walls of the fortress at Acre returns so soon to confront from a safe distance his accusers, and, moreover, enjoys the position and the influence to make his story known.

I presume that those who so highly value such services will continue to use and reward the man who has been already honoured with the title of "Premier Espion à Vrania," and given almost unlimited power over the character and liberty of his late fellow-Christians. Already his victims are counted by the hundred. There is hardly a limit to his energy, or the field in which he is allowed to show it. Mr. Wyndham has been furnished with a long list of the districts where the man has been at his work in the Vilayets of Kossova, Salonica, and Monastir. He claims to hold the threads of a conspiracy extending over a great part of that portion of the Balkan peninsula still under Mahommedan rule, and he passes from sandjak to sandjak hailing and committing to prison. Such acts may inspire terror and purchase momentary security, but they also sow the seeds of future trouble.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

Inclosure in No. 131.

M. Kampérélitch to the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(Traduction.)

Belgrade, le 15 Mars, 1883.

M. le Ministre,

ME conformant à votre désir, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre le présent Rapport relatif aux persécutions dirigées contre les Chrétiens en Turquie et concernant surtout les persécutions des Serbes dans le Vilayet de Kossovo.

Il vous est connu qu'un Conseil de Guerre ("Divani-Urfié") a été constitué dans le Vilayet de Salonique dans le but de s'emparer des révolutionnaires et des insurgés et de pacifier la Macédoine. Mais le Conseil, au lieu de poursuivre les rebelles et les révolutionnaires, s'est mis à arrêter les gens les plus paisibles, tels que prêtres, maîtres d'écoles, commerçants et autres notables, en les accusant d'être les complices des insurgés. Par suite, des milliers de Chrétiens innocents sont transportés en Asie pour y achever leur triste existence dans des sombres prisons.

Je ne suis pas en état de rapporter en détail ni les noms des victimes ni leurs lieux de naissance, ni les accusations portées contre eux, ni le lieu ou la durée de leur esclavage, car pendant les poursuites dirigées contre moi j'ai été tellement préoccupé de mon triste sort que je me souviens vaguement de quelques-uns d'entre eux.

En outre, il a été créé des Conseils de Guerre non seulement à Salonique (lorsque Dervich Pacha avec ses troupes a soumis les Albanais rebelles en 1881, et a ramené son armée sur les points principaux du pays, pour s'emparer, à ce qu'il semblait, seulement des Chefs des Albanais insurgés); mais aussi dans les autres vilayets: de Kossovo, de Monastir (Bitolié), et de Janina.

Après qu'on eût arrêté un certain nombre d'Albanais, exilant les principaux et envoyant les autres au bagne, on s'en prit aux Chrétiens paisibles et on se mit à les poursuivre comme les plus grands malfaiteurs, comme ennemis mortels de l'Empire Ottoman, et comme espions de la Serbie, de la Bulgarie, de la Russie, ou de la Grèce. On commença à maltraiter quelques personnes, à les soumettre à diverses tortures, à les assassiner, afin d'obliger ces malheureux à dénoncer des personnages plus importants, qu'ils insinuaient être en relations politiques avec quelques-uns de ces États, et y envoyer et en recevoir des communications politiques. Deux de ces malheureux que les plus terribles tortures ont forcé à calomnier sans raison leurs concitoyens, ayant été remis en liberté, en récompense de leurs délations, se sont immédiatement enfuis en Bulgarie. Ils sont tous originaires de Macédoine, mais je ne me rappelle pas leurs noms.

Je connais bien le maître d'école de Radovitch, Grégoire Dimitriévitch, originaire de Chtipe-Novo-Sélo, qui m'a raconté lui-même dans la prison de Prichtina, qu'il avait aussi enduré diverses tortures dans le seul but de lui faire dénoncer des Notables comme espions de la Bulgarie. Ce pauvre homme avait préféré supporter les plus grandes souffrances et était prêt à mourir plutôt que de dénoncer aucun de ses concitoyens innocents. Ce maître d'école est resté à Prichtina même après mon transport à Salonique.

Mais les Turcs ont trouvé dans la vieille Serbie, c'est-à-dire, dans le Vilayet de Kossovo, un homme toujours prêt à accuser les plus innocents et les plus honnêtes et à les faire arrêter comme ennemis de l'Empire Ottoman.

Cet homme s'appelle Diourichitch, Tzintzare, natif du district de Monastir (Bitolié). Il se donne pour avoir été agent de la Serbie, d'où mécontent il repassa en Turquie en 1881, et se livra aux autorités du district de Préchovo, d'où il fut transporté à Prichtina. Les Turcs l'ont reçu à bras ouverts et l'ont forcé à se convertir au Mahométisme, ce qu'il a fait immédiatement en prenant le nom de Omer Effendi. On l'a ensuite nommé membre du Conseil de Guerre et on l'a engagé à accuser les habitants de la Vieille Serbie comme traîtres à l'Empire.

Il commença le 4 Janvier de l'année dernière à calomnier différents Notables de la Vieille Serbie et à les faire enfermer, et jusqu'au 13 Avril, jour où j'ai été amené à Prichtina, on y avait déjà emprisonné les personnes suivantes:—

De Voutchitrn.

1. Le Prota Dautché.
2. Joseph Stouditch, maître d'école.

De Ghiliane.

3. X. Tussa X. Staïkovitch, commerçant.
4. Manassié X. Staïkovitch.
5. Jovan Dénitch, commerçant.
6. Laza N———, aubergiste.

De Koumanovo.

7. Denko Krstitch, commerçant.
8. Démètre Pandilovitch, restaurateur.
9. Michel Popovitch, maître d'école.

Du District de Préchevo.

10. Le pope Zvétan.
11. Le pope Spassoujé Popovitch.
12. Traïko N———, agriculteur.

D'Useub (Scoplié).

13. Ougrin N———, aubergiste.

De Sehtip.

14. Le "prota" Atanassié.

De Kitchévo.

15. Bognie N———, maçon.

Les habitants suivants de Prichtina ont été emprisonnés:—

16. Stévan X. Arsitch, fourreur (peletier).
17. Stéphan Voutchitch, cafetier.
18. Nedelko (Dela) Botchkomanovitch, commerçant.
19. Aksentié Georgóvitch, cafetier.

De quoi a-t-il accusé ces malheureux je ne saurais le dire en détail, mais d'après ce que j'ai entendu raconter et autant que je me le rappelle, j'essaverai de dire quelle est l'accusation qui pèse sur chacun d'eux et la sentence qui a été prononcée contre eux. Par exemple:—

Omer Effendi a dit que "prota" Dautché, de Voutchitrn, avait eu des relations politiques avec la Serbie, qu'il y envoyait et en recevait des lettres politiques et que le maître d'école Joseph Stouditch lui servait de secrétaire, ajoutant que c'était lui-même, Omer Effendi, qui portait ces lettres en Serbie. Prota Dautché a été condamné aux travaux forcés à perpétuité et le maître Stouditch à huit années.

Il a dit (Omer) que les frères H. Tassa et Monassié H. Staïkoviteh, commerçants de Ghiliane, avaient envoyé au Général Bélimarkovitch, à Vrania, des rapports sur l'état de l'armée Ottomane, et qu'ils avaient fait savoir quand il était opportun de faire marcher les troupes Serbes sur Ghiliane. Ils ont été condamnés à cinq ou dix ans de travaux forcés.

Il a accusé Jovan Dénitch, commerçant de Ghiliane, d'avoir aussi envoyé des lettres en Serbie et de s'être rendu à Vrania dans un but politique. On l'a condamné à huit ans de travaux forcés.

Omer Effendi a dit que Laza N———, aubergiste, Ghiliane, avait été pendant la guerre cocher de quelque Compagnie Bulgare, et qu'il avait transporté pour cette Compagnie des trompettes ("spyde") et autres objets militaires de Serbie en Bulgarie. De ce chef il a été condamné à six ans de travaux forcés.

Il a prétendu que Denko Krstitch, commerçant de Koumanovo, était espion de la Serbie, qu'il faisait pendant la guerre des communications sur l'état de l'armée Turque, et qu'il s'était servi de lui (Omer Effendi) lorsqu'il avait passé secrètement en Turquie comme Agent Serbe in 1880, pour porter à l'aubergiste Démètre Pandilovitch une lettre, dans laquelle il le priait de tâcher de lui fournir un passeport, avec lequel il pût aller à Monastir (Bitolié) et en revenir. L'accusé est mort de la fièvre typhoïde à Prichtina avant sa condamnation.

Il (Omer) a accusé Démètre Pandilovitch, aubergiste, de Koumanovo, d'avoir

connu chacun de ses voyages en Turquie, puisque c'était dans son auberge qu'il s'arrêtait, et de lui avoir procuré un passeport. On l'a condamné a quinze ans de travaux forcés.

Il (Omer) a dit que Michel Popovich, maître d'école à Koumanovo, était originaire de Vrania, mais qu'il était maître de langue Bulgare à Koumanovo et qu'il recevait ses émoluments de Bulgarie. Il a été condamné à cinq ans de travaux forcés.

Il (Omer) a prétendu que le pope Tzvétan, du district du Préchovo, avait eu chez lui quelques centaines de fusils Turcs pendant la guerre, et qu'il les avait perdus à l'arrivée des troupes Serbes dans le district de Préchovo. Il a été condamné à environ dix années de travaux forcés.

Omer a dit que le pope Spassoïe Popovitch, du district de Préchovo, était originaire de Vrania, qu'il y a son père, sa mère, et sa femme, tandis que sa paroisse est en Turquie; qu'il passe chaque jour la frontière et porte à Vrania toutes sortes de nouvelles de Turquie. On l'a condamné à quinze ans de travaux forcés.

Omer accuse Traïko N———, agriculteur du district de Préchovo, de s'être révolté, et d'avoir, avec une bande, attaqué des villages dans le district de Préchovo. Traïko a été condamné à huit ans de travaux forcés.

Omer a prétendu qu'Ougrine N———, aubergiste d'Useub (Scoplié), a connu chacun de ces voyages en Turquie, parce qu'il s'arrêtait à son auberge. En outre, qu'il l'a conduit lui-même (Omer Effendi), secrètement et de nuit, vers l'Évêque Taissiée, de Scoplié, avec un fonctionnaire Serbe, qui était chargé de remettre une décoration à l'Évêque. Il a été condamné à huit ans de travaux forcés.

Omer a accusé le prota Athanase de Stipe d'avoir reçu de Serbie et de Bulgarie de l'argent pour soutenir les rebelles de Macédoine. Il a été condamné à dix ans de travaux forcés.

Omer a accusé Bagine N———, maçon de Kitchévo, d'avoir parcouru la Roumanie pour recueillir des secours pour les révoltés de Macédoine. Il a été condamné à sept ans de travaux forcés.

Omer a accusé Stévan X. Arsitch, pelletier, de Prichtina, d'avoir entretenu une correspondance politique avec son frère, Axentié, Sous-Préfet à Procouplié. Il a été condamné à huit ans de travaux forcés.

Omer a dit que Stévan Voutchitch, aubergiste, de Prichtina, avait été à Nisch en 1880, et y avait parlé politique avec le Commandant de Nisch, le Général Léchianine. Cet accusé est mort de la fièvre typhoïde, dans les fers, à la prison de Prichtina.

Omer a accusé Nédelko (Déla) Rochkomanovitch, commerçant, de Prichtina, d'avoir été à Prépolatz, sur la frontière Serbe, et d'y avoir transmis diverses nouvelles politiques. Il est condamné à cinq ans de travaux forcés.

Omer a dit qu'Aksentié Giorgévitch, aubergiste, de Prichtina, avait vendu quelques antiquités au Musée National Serbe. Il est condamné à huit ans de travaux forcés.

En outre, je ne dois pas omettre que le converti Omer Effendi était en même temps accusateur-témoin, et qu'il n'y a eu aucun autre témoignage ni un aveu d'aucun des accusés. En sorte que ce n'est que sur les assertions d'Omer Effendi que tant de personnes ont été envoyées au bagne pour si longtemps.

Tous ces malheureux ont été transportés à Salonique le 22 Juin et y ont été mis aux fers dans la prison nommée "Kauli-Koulé," Jovan Déniteh, de Gilifiane, seul a été envoyé à Constantinople.

Depuis mon entrée dans la prison de Prichtina jusqu'à mon départ pour Salonique (le 30 Septembre), surtout lorsqu'au mois de Septembre Omer Effendi commença à passer de ville en ville pour saisir les Notables, on a incarcéré encore une cinquantaine des plus honnêtes gens du Vilayet de Cossova; mais je ne sais pas leurs noms, et, d'ailleurs, ils n'avaient pas encore été jugés lors de mon départ pour Salonique. On jugeait seulement trois Serbes qui avaient été arrêtés par Omer Effendi tandis qu'ils voyageaient.

1. Pierre Dimitriévitch, cocher, de Koumanovo;
2. Zaphyr N——, cocher, de Kitchévo;
3. Joseph Popovitch, philologue, de Plevlié.

Omer Effendi a accusé Pierre Dimitriévitch, de Koumanovo, d'avoir servi de guide aux volontaires Serbes pendant la guerre, et d'avoir été après la guerre soudoyé par la Serbie pour faire passer des lettres et autres objets. Il n'avait pas encore été condamné lors de mon départ pour Salonique. Il était muni d'un passeport Serbe.

Omer Effendi a prétendu que Zaphyr N——, cocher, de Kitchévo, était aussi payé par la Serbie pour passer secrètement des lettres et autres objets. Celui-ci aussi n'était pas encore condamné lorsque je suis parti pour Salonique.

Joseph Popovitch, philologue, de Plevlié, a commencé ses études ici à Belgrade, puis a été en Russie où il a suivi des cours de philologie. Il parle douze langues. En revenant de Russie à Plevlié par Constantinople et Salonique il s'est arrêté à Prichtina. C'est là qu'Omer Effendi l'a trouvé et là aussitôt arrêté. Il l'a accusé d'avoir pris part à l'insurrection de l'Herzégovine, et a dit qu'il était blessé à la jambe droite.

M. Popovitch avait avec lui beaucoup de livres en diverses langues, quelques lettres, et son diplôme, toutes choses qui ont été séquestrées.

On l'a aussi engagé à se convertir au Mahométisme et à dénoncer les Notables Serbes du district de Novi-Bazar, le menaçant, en cas de refus, des travaux forcés à perpétuité. Tant que je suis resté à Prichtina il repoussait ces propositions; mais quelques forçats Turcs qui ont été amenés plus tard de Prichtina à la prison de Salonique m'ont dit que Popovitch avait promis de se convertir et qu'il avait déjà fait incarcérer à Prichtina quelques Notables du district de Novi-Bazar. J'ignore si c'est la vérité.

Ces mêmes forçats Turcs m'ont assuré, en outre, qu'Omer Effendi avait encore emprisonné plus de 200 personnes du Vilayet de Kossova, et qu'il allait parcourir aussi les Vilayets de Salonique et de Monastir (Bitolié), et saisirait dans chacun d'eux au moins 200 personnes, inscrites dans le livre noir, et les mènerait à Prichtina.

Vous pouvez prendre plus facilement des informations à ce sujet.

Je dirai encore que tous les voyageurs qui veulent passer en Serbie ou entrer en Turquie doivent se présenter à Omer Effendi, qui examine leurs passeports et les soumet eux-mêmes à un interrogatoire; il les relâche aussitôt, ou les emprisonne pendant quelques jours, ou les enferme pour tout à fait, ainsi qu'il est arrivé aux trois personnes que je viens de mentionner.

(Signé) GEORGES S. KAMPÉRÉLITCH.

No. 132.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 7, 1883.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 17th February last, reporting the representations made by you to the Porte on the subject of the punishment to which certain inhabitants of Old Servia have been condemned for alleged conspiracy against the Turkish Government, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade,* from which it appears that an organized system of persecution is being carried out by Turkish officials against apparently peaceful individuals at the instigation of the renegade spy, Omer Effendi.

I have to instruct you to bring this matter once more before the Porte, and to urge that persons imprisoned on the evidence of Omer Effendi should be liberated, unless other proof of their having committed any crime be forthcoming, and to point out that the discontent against the Turkish authorities produced by these wholesale denunciations is likely to more than counterbalance any security derived from the imprisonment of the suspected persons.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 133.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 7, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 20th ultimo, and to inform you that, on the 16th ultimo, I laid before the Sublime Porte, in a Memorandum, the substance of Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch of the 28th March last to your Lordship, a copy of which he sent to me, and that I have now again drawn the attention of Aarifi Pasha to the unsettled state

* No. 131.

of affairs in Upper Albania, informing his Highness tha I did so by your Lordship's orders.

His Highness stated that he had referred my *pro-memorid* to Edhem Pasha, the Minister of the Interior, who, in his turn, said that he had written on the subject to the Imperial authorities in Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 134.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 7, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th February, I have the honour to report that I learn that the Minister of War has been recommended to cause an inquiry to be made into the validity of the sentences pronounced against the Christians of Kossova on the evidence of Omer Effendi, "a mischievous spy."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 135.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May 28, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th February last, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of two despatches from the British Vice-Consul at Serres on the subject of brigandage in that district.

Tranquillity prevails in the neighbourhood of Salonica, but I hear from persons who have recently visited the interior of Macedonia that there are symptoms of a revival of brigandage in other districts besides that of Serres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le 19 Mai, 1883.*

L'ÉTAT de la sécurité publique est pour le moment plutôt satisfaisant et l'autorité militaire a pris quelques mesures pour le maintenir.

En attendant, il est vrai que des brigands existent dans le pays, et dernièrement une petite bande de cinq personnes s'est présentée à Camaroto, située sur la plaine et près de Demir-Hissar; aussi à Petritz, il y a quelques jours, ont été arrêtés deux autres brigands, lesquels furent conduits ici.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. CAPETY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le 26 Mai, 1883.*

EN vous confirmant mon dernier Rapport expédié par la poste de la semaine passée, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre par ceci les nouvelles suivantes relativement au brigandage.

Deux bandes des brigands venant de la Bulgarie ont passé dernièrement la frontière. L'une a été repoussée tout à fait près de la frontière après avoir subie une perte de trois brigands et infligée la perte d'un soldat au détachement militaire qui l'a attaquée.

L'autre bande, qu'on supposait dirigée vers Cossova, a fait son apparition dans le district de Nevrocop. Elle est conduite par le chef Zembil et forte, comme on dit, de trente à quarante hommes.

Cette bande a été aussi attaquée d'abord à Paril-Tépé le 22 de ce mois, et après à Ali-Botuch le 23. Dans la première attaque c'est la bande qui a eu quatre morts; dans la seconde, elle a tuée un soldat. La poursuite continue.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. CAPETY.

No. 136.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 20.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June 10, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch of Mr. Vice-Consul Capety relative to the pursuit and destruction of brigands and the proceedings of Bulgarian schoolmasters in the district of Serres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le 8 Juin, 1883.*

EN confirmant mes derniers Rapports en date du 1er du mois courant j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre les nouvelles suivantes.

Deux récentes tentatives des brigands à entrer dans ce Sandjak, l'une du côté de Djouma, l'autre du côté de Razlog, ont échoué, grâce à la vigilance des gardes-frontières Ottomanes.

La bande qui voulut entrer du côté de Djouma a été forcé de rentrer en Bulgarie après avoir eu un homme de tué; celle qui tenta de venir du côté de Razlog rentra en Roumélie après avoir subie une perte de neuf brigands tués. Elle a été même poursuivie par les troupes Ottomanes bien loin sur le sol de la province privilégiée, et jusqu'à ce que des gendarmes Rouméliotes fussent rencontrés.

Jusqu'à ce moment partout les brigands subissent des échecs grâce à l'activité du Commandant Rifaat Pacha.

La Caïmacan de Petrich, Ghalib Bey, par une dépêche communiquée hier à l'Idareh Medjliss (Conseil Administratif) accuse le maître Bulgare de Petrich de connivence avec les brigands. L'instruction a été renvoyée à l'Idareh Urfié (Conseil Militaire).

Dans le district de Nevrocop circule pour être signée des Bulgares une Pétition à la Sublime Porte dans le but de leur permettre d'avoir un Evêque de l'Exarchat.

Cette menée est attribuée à Peter Sarafow, maître Bulgare à Camenikia, faubourg de Serres, et un des plus zélés acteurs du Slavisme.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. CAPETY.

No. 137.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received July 5.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 30, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th ultimo on the subject of the sentences pronounced upon the Christians of Kossova, I have the honour to state that I have caused verbal representations to be made to Aarifi Pasha on their behalf, but that the Ottoman Minister for War has not yet replied to the Porte's first communication on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 138.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 28.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July 17, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of two Reports of Mr. Vice-Consul Capety on the subject of the destruction of brigands in the Sandjak of Serres.

I have the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that no acts of brigandage or other serious disorders have been perpetrated in the southern districts of Macedonia during the last two months.

The districts of Cassandra, Salonica, Allassona, Catterina, and Karaferia are now quiet.

The Greek brigand chief, Camaka, has been hotly pursued by the Turkish military in district of Catterina, and forced to take refuge in Greek territory with two of his confederates. I now hear that these outlaws have been captured by the "Evzoni" Greek frontier guard in the direction of Rapsani.

Two bands of brigands, one of them said to be commanded by the notorious Nicko, have been attacked and dispersed by the Turkish troops in the Vilayet of Monastir, assisted by Christian and Turkish armed volunteers.

The plan of requisitioning and arming Christian and Turkish peasants for police duties is now being generally adopted by the Ottoman authorities in the interior. From all I hear it has proved very useful, especially in the Sandjak of Serres.

M. Scriabine, the Russian Consul at Monastir, and M. Yastrobow, Russian Consul at Prisrend, who are both here on a visit to the Russian Consul-General, bear testimony to the improved state of public security in the Vilayets of Monastir and Cossova.

M. Scriabine speaks very highly of the determined and untiring efforts made in that direction by Mehmed Eyoub Pasha, Vali and Commander-in-chief of Monastir; and M. Yastrobow acknowledges that brigandage has sensibly decreased in Uscup, Pristina, Novi-Bazar, and other districts in the Vilayet of Cossova. He, however, represents the district of Ipek as bordering on anarchy, and states that many of its Christian inhabitants have left their homes and taken refuge in Servia in consequence of the persecutions they suffered from the Albanian mountaineers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 138.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le 6 Juillet,* 1883.

IL y a quelques jours une rencontre a eu lieu près de Golesciovo entre la bande Zimbil et la force publique. Des deux côtés il n'y a pas eu de perte.

La poursuite continue toujours mais pour le moment sans aucun résultat éclatant. Selon mes informations Cuculitz avec une trentaine de brigands se trouvait dernièrement dans les Montagnes Liaija, cinq heures loin d'ici, avec l'intention de s'en aller à Beleso, qu'il connaît bien, étant originaire de Ramna.

Rifaat Pacha a affiché partout des Proclamations et mis en prix les têtes des brigands. Il a même payé aux auteurs du fait de Calapôt, dont j'ai fait mention dans mon Rapport No. 7, 5,000 piastres pour la tête du chef de bande Deli-Olan et 2,000 piastres pour les têtes de deux autres bandits, et il a donné sur caution aux habitants de Calapôt quinze fusils Martini.

Le Caïmacan de Nevrocop vient de réclamer une récompense en argent pour les gens qui ont dernièrement tués neuf brigands à Babiako; mais comme le Vékil du Mutessarif m'a dit hier, rien n'a été décidé encore sur cette demande.

Dans la poursuite des brigands la troupe régulière prend comme auxiliaires des Chrétiens et des Turcs selon les endroits ou le besoin se présente. Ces gens sont armés de leurs propres fusils excepté une vingtaine de "Neferam" de Vrondù, auxquels l'autorité a fourni des armes lors de l'érection du Moudirlik de Vrondù, dont le Moudir est Chrétien et qui sous des divers rapports a rendu des services signalés.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. CAPETY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 138.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le 10 Juillet,* 1883.

LE Commandant Rifaat Pacha a bien voulu m'informer avant-hier qu'un des frères Zimbil et deux brigands ont été tués Samedi passé dans les environs de Vrondù.

Des particularités de cette rencontre que j'ai obtenu d'une autre source j'ai su que ce succès a été racheté par des pertes proportionnellement considérables, parce que trois soldats ont été tués sur le lieu même, quatre autres sont blessés, l'un d'eux grièvement, et peut-être a déjà succombé; aussi trois "Neferam" ont été blessés.

L'attaque était conduite par un Bimbashi en tête de cinquante soldats et aidé par Hadji Dimitri, le Moudir de Vrondù, conduisant quarante "Neferam" Chrétiens.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. CAPETY.

No. 139.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received August 11.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July 30, 1883.*

THE inclosed Memorandum on the condition of affairs in the Vilayet of Monastir has been communicated to me by a well-informed person who has recently arrived here from that district.

It shows how the energetic measures which the Vali Ahmet Eyoub Pasha has taken to establish order and tranquillity in his vilayet are frustrated by the Porte's mistaken leniency and indulgence towards the refractory proceedings of the Mahommedan Albanians of Dibra. I should add that the account my informant gives of the efforts of Eyoub Pasha to suppress brigandage and promote the construction of public roads is confirmed by the Reverend Mr. Baird, an American Protestant missionary established at Monastir, and by other independent sources. His Excellency has succeeded in making an excellent road, passable for carriages, between Monastir, the capital of his vilayet, and Giordja, a town of considerable commercial importance in South Albania; and I now hear that he is making arrangements for extending this road to Janina, the capital of Epirus. He has also perfected the road leading from Monastir and Perlepé to the Salonica Railway Station at Gratzko, through which there is a very considerable traffic.

I am also glad to add that Ghalib Pasha takes the same interest in extending and keeping up the public roads in the Vilayet of Salonica; he has had the road between Salonica and Serres thoroughly repaired, and is now giving his attention to the roads leading to the several stations on the railway between Salonica and Kiuprulu (Velessa).

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Memorandum.

(Extrait.)

LE Vali de Bitolia (Monastir) Ahmet Eyoub Pacha, qui a toujours tenu à cœur le bien-être des habitants de son vilayet, a facilement compris que l'ennemi le plus redoutable de ce bien-être n'était autre que le brigandage qui ravageait le pays à

un point tel que toute agriculture et tout mouvement commercial risqueraient d'être complètement anéantis.

A la fin de l'année 1881 se produisirent des événements très alarmants en conséquence de l'état dangereux des choses dans le district de Giordja.

Eyoub Pacha ayant usé de toutes les mesures que le pouvoir de l'Administration ordinaire pouvait lui procurer, fut enfin forcé de déclarer le district de Giordja en état de siège, en y introduisant la cour martiale, qui seule pouvait offrir la possibilité de juger promptement et sévèrement les perturbateurs de l'ordre et de la sécurité publique.

Le Président de cette Cour, Néhim Bey, montra tant de zèle, de probité, et de justice dans ses fonctions qu'au printemps de l'année 1882 on ne comptait plus une seule bande de brigands à Giordja.

Cependant la localisation de cette mesure énergique eut aussi son mauvais côté; les brigands qui purent échapper aux recherches se dispersèrent dans les districts environnants où la cour martiale ne pouvait les atteindre et user de son immédiate sévérité.

Ce fut là la cause que tout le Vilâyet de Monastir commença à être envahi par ces brigands, et un moment vint où il aurait été dangereux même de s'éloigner d'un quart d'heure de la ville.

Ce fut alors qu'Eyoub Pacha, qui avait introduit la cour martiale à Giordja avec l'approbation de la Sublime Porte, en demanda l'autorisation aussi pour le reste du vilayet.

Le Président de la cour martiale de Giordja, Néhim Bey, changea sa résidence contre celle de Monastir. Aidée par la force militaire il eut la chance d'arrêter le brigandage des bandes les plus redoutées dans un court délai. Mais il lui restait à ramère la partie la plus dangereuse de malfaiteurs, c'est-à-dire, ceux qui couvraient leur métier de brigands de leur position sociale.

C'étaient les Beys de Dibra qui pillaient la population paisible tout en se reposant après leurs exploits dans leurs foyers.

Néhim Bey fut chargé par Eyoub Pacha d'une enquête énergique contre eux. Cette enquête fut si bien menée que les preuves de la culpabilité des principaux Notables fut démontrée à l'évidence.

Plusieurs d'entre eux furent arrêtés, conduits à Monastir, et imprisonnés.

La sécurité publique paraissait assurée; les agriculteurs cultivaient paisiblement leurs champs, le mouvement commercial se ranimait.

Tout promettait un avenir souriant aux habitants et heureux à l'État.

Rien n'empêchait donc le sympathique Vali de s'occuper des améliorations administratives et économiques du vilayet.

Le manque de communications convenables étant une entrave au développement des affaires il s'occupa de la prompte construction des voies. Les infatigables recherches, des mois entiers passés en tournée, pour étudier les directions les plus utiles à suivre, eurent pour effet qu'au commencement du printemps tous les habitants des districts à parcourir par ces chemins furent mis à l'œuvre.

On comptait déjà sur les avantages et les bénéfices que la facilité des transports aurait produit quand on vit surgir des empêchements nouveaux, qui, se suivant les uns les autres, amenèrent, outre l'anéantissement de toutes ces espérances, la destruction complète de tout le bien précédemment fait.

En premier lieu les Beys de Dibra, par des intrigues à Constantinople, obtinrent non seulement leur délivrance, mais encore le refus du Ministère de la Guerre de vouloir reconnaître l'état de siège existant jusqu'alors dans le vilayet avec l'autorisation de la Sublime Porte.

Puis par les mêmes intrigues ils parvinrent à faire annuler par la Sublime Porte le projet d'Eyoub Pacha d'ouvrir une issue à Dibra par les voies de communication pour se mettre en état de tenir cette province, inaccessible même à l'artillerie de montagne, sous les armes Turques; et grâce fut faite aux Dibriotes de ce chemin.

Voilà comment les choses se passèrent: Cadri Pacha, Gérant du Mutessariflik de Dibra, reçut l'ordre du Vali de Monastir de commencer la construction de la route; il assembla dans ce but les Notables de la ville, et les invita à se rendre avec lui sur l'endroit même pour décider de la distribution des tronçs du chemin à construire.

Les Notables demandèrent à consulter le peuple; celui qui, mis en défiance par les exemples précédents, présentait dans l'invitation des Notables un événement extraordinaire, se trouvait déjà rassemblé sur la place de la ville. Mécontent de la construction de chemins qui auraient rompus l'isolement de son pays, et poussé à la

résistance par les Beys arrêtés à Monastir, le peuple accueillit cette occasion pour se venger de toutes les mesures prises contre lui par les autorités Turques. Ayant donc décidé de résister, il ferma le bazar et lança des télégrammes à la Sublime Porte et au Vali de Monastir, déclarant qu'il était prêt à obéir aux ordres du Gouvernement à la condition cependant que Cadri Pacha et Néhim Bey, exécuteurs énergiques des ordres du Vali de Monastir, seraient rappelés de Dibra! Quant aux Notables, en retournant chez Cadri Pacha, ils lui déclarèrent que pour ce qui les concernait ils étaient prêts à suivre ses ordres, mais qu'ils ne pouvaient pas répondre du peuple.

Cadri Pacha, révolté de cette réponse si rusée, attrappa au collet un des Beys, lequel lui intima de le lâcher en le menaçant de le tuer. Cadri Pacha ayant informé la Sublime Porte de la résistance qu'on lui faisait ainsi que de la fermeture du Bazar, elle donna ordre au Commandant des troupes à Monastir, Sabit Pacha, de se rendre à Dibra et de promettre aux Albanais qu'on renoncerait au projet de la construction du chemin à la condition d'un complet apaisement de leur côté.

Sur ce les Dibriotes rouvrirent le Bazar et envoyèrent un autre télégramme à la Sublime Porte la remerçiant de ses bonnes dispositions à leur égard; mais en même temps insistant que Cadri Pacha et Néhim Bey fussent rappelés étant, selon eux, les seuls promoteurs de tous les désordres.

Quelques jours plus tard un télégramme arrivait aux Notables, signé du Premier Secrétaire du Sultan et de Dervich Pacha, dans lequel on leur annonçait que Sa Majesté voulait bien pardonner leur conduite jusqu'à ce jour et que comme preuve de sa bienveillance il avait fait passer ordre à Cadri Pacha et à Néhim Bey de quitter immédiatement Dibra. A peine le bruit s'était-il répandu que le Ministère de la Guerre ne reconnaissait pas l'état de siège du Vilayet de Monastir, et à peine les Dibriotes eurent-ils reçu satisfaction complète à leur demande, que les bandes de brigands reparurent comme par enchantement et avec eux tous les malheurs possibles pour les paisibles habitants.

Les choses marchant de ce train il faut s'attendre à ce que les cultivateurs, craignant de s'exposer, négligeront leur récolte, et que les commerçants ne voulant point se risquer sur des routes envahies par les brigands, il n'y aura à la place du bien-être général que promettaient les mesures prises par le Vali, Ahmet Eyoub Pacha, que la misère pour la population et des grandes dommages pour le Gouvernement.

Salonique, le 26 *Juillet*, 1883.

No. 140.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 11.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July* 30, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch of Mr. Vice-Consul Capety, reporting the massacre of a whole family by the brigand chief, Zembil, in the district of Serres.

In a further despatch, a copy of which I also inclose, Mr. Capety reports that the notorious brigand chief, Cocoulitz, has been killed, with three of his companions, in the same district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 140.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le* 23 *Juillet*, 1883.

JE m'empresse de vous transmettre la nouvelle d'un fait qui met le comble aux crimes de Georges Zimbil.

Samedi passé, c'est-à-dire, avant-hier, le chef brigand a tué seul dans un champ une heure loin de Vrondù, cinq personnes appartenant toutes à une famille seule de

Papayanni, de Vrondû, deux jeunes filles et la bru de ce prêtre, son petit-fils et son neveu, enfants tous deux, ont été victimes de la vengeance de Zimbil.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) C. CAPETY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 140.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le 27 Juillet*, 1883.

EN vous confirmant mes Rapports en date du 21 et 23 de ce mois, j'ai l'honneur de vous annoncer qu'enfin Cocoulitz, un des chefs brigands, qui pendant cinq ans exerçait dans ce sandjak son exécrable métier, vient d'être tué avec trois autres brigands Mardi passé, trois heures loin d'ici, entre Mouhlan et Zikhna Mahalé.

L'autorité militaire ayant des doutes sur l'identité de Cocoulitz a envoyé sur le lieu un homme qui le connaissait et celui-ci l'ayant reconnu, 50 livres ont été décrétées à payer à l'individu qui a mis la force publique sur la piste de la bande.

La mort de Cocoulitz ne met pas la fin au brigandage mais elle lui porte un coup décisif.

Rifaat Pacha espère avoir bientôt raison de Zimbil aussi.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) C. CAPETY.

No. 141.

Some Observations on the present state of Dardania, or Turkish Serbia (including the Vilayet of Kossova and part of the Vilayet of Monastir), by Mr. A. Evans.

THE present distribution of vilayets in the Upper Albanian and Old Serbian region is altogether artificial and apparently unintelligible. Thus, while Uskup (Skoplje) and Pristina are included in the Vilayet of Kossova, the neighbouring and geographically inseparable districts of Tetovo (Kalkandelen) and Prisrend are placed under the distant Government of Monastir! This partitionment has very probably a military object, since in the case of an Albanian movement in the Shar ranges the troops of two vilayets could be employed to crush it without any derangement of the normal distribution of forces. But it is also not impossibly due to a not unnatural dread on the part of the Porte of placing too large an Albanian district under the command of any one Pasha who might be tempted to play an ambitious game. Although the recent disturbances regarding the Montenegrin frontier question were local and mainly confined to the Catholic mountaineers of the Scodra district, they certainly have found an echo on this side of the Shar Dagh, and the Turkish authorities found it advisable to send several additional battalions to Gussinjé and other points. At the present moment the Albanian League may be said to be dormant, but there is ample evidence of the prolongation of the movement of which it was a symptom. It may be said with truth that in the Vilayet of Kossova and the neighbouring Old Dardanian districts, wherever the Albanian element preponderates Turkish authority exists, because it is not exercised. Even in the Mutessariflik of Uskup, the most peaceable part of the country, no Turkish official dares venture into one of the Albanian mountain villages unsupported by a considerable troop. These Albanian mountaineers are well armed, mostly with Government Martini-Henrys, and they are continually tyrannizing over their Christian neighbours; but though they constitute an eventual menace to the Turkish Government, there is no apparent disposition and there has been no serious attempt to disarm them. The local Turkish officials, and this is a significant symptom, rather cultivate their goodwill. They (the Turks) speak with more than tolerance of the Albanian idea of forming a vassal State under the Sultan, and I have heard Turkish officers here openly execrate Dervish Pasha, whose treacherous seizure of the Albanian Chiefs at Uskup put a temporary extinguisher on the "League." It must, moreover, be remembered that while Pashas, Mutessarifs, and Mudirs are perpetually changing, the Mahommedan religious officers sit *en permanence* in the divans of the konak and the local Medjliss,

and exercise a very real control over the administration. This Mahommedan religious influence is all on the side of the Albanian true believers, and any functionary who should ignore it sets in motion a whole machinery of intrigue ramifying to Stamboul.

The Albanians of this part are a rougher and more fanatical set than those of the Adriatic coastlands, and to give them complete local autonomy would be simply giving them free hand to tyrannize, even more than at present, over the industrious Christian population of the Dardanian lowlands. I use the term "Dardanian," because the districts of which I am speaking (those, namely, embraced in the present Kossova Vilayet and the northern strip of the Monastir Vilayet, including Kalkandelen and Prisrend, and which lie between Albania proper and Serbia) answer nearly exactly to the old Illyrian Kingdom and later Roman Province of Dardania. Although, owing to the great Serbian exodus under Arsenius Tzernojevich, there has been a great Albanian immigration into this Dardanian region during the last three centuries, it is certain that, at least in the southern districts, the Slavonic element, though less self-assertive, still largely preponderates. The rich plains about Uskup are tilled almost exclusively by Slavonic peasants (falsely called Bulgars—really, as their language shows, very pure-blood Serbs), and Serbian is the language of the market-place. Even about Prisrend, where the Albanian element is larger, a large number of the so-called Arnaouts still speak Serb, while at Novi-Bazar the Serbian language is overwhelmingly preponderant. In the mountain ranges alone can the population be fairly called Albanian.

My observations on the present occasion have been hitherto chiefly confined to the part of Dardania of which Uskup is the principal centre. It has, however, been pretty thoroughgoing, as I have had occasion to visit over fifty villages. This is by far the most tranquil and orderly region of the Kossova Vilayet, and I found it entirely free from any kind of brigandage. The nearest bands, at present, are in the neighbourhood of Prilip, and seem to be under the direction of the famous Nicko. They have no political significance, and are equally detestable to Turk and Christian. Nor could I find any trace of a political conspiracy or movement among the Rayah population of the Skoplje (Uskup) and neighbouring districts. Any such movement would, indeed, be hopeless and suicidal, as the Christian population, for the most part, inhabits the plain country and the lower ranges, and is kept in check by the armed Arnaouts of the surrounding highlands, as well as by the Turkish troops. Indeed, any such movement is, under present circumstances, so hopelessly out of the question, that I see no reason to doubt the statement of trustworthy natives, that the recent so-called conspiracy, by which the Turks have profited to seize many of the most intelligent and respected members of the community, existed only in the lying reports of Government spies and *agents provocateurs*.

As to this affair, the accounts that I have heard on all sides are most heart-rending. Such was the brutality with which these wholesale arrests were conducted, that, in some cases, mere children were seized on political charges, and have since been as lost to their parents and relations as if the grave had swallowed them. To give a single instance: A boy of Uskup, Toder Mileo by name, aged 17, had written a letter to a friend in Bulgaria, in which he described some of the vexations to which the Christians here are subjected. This coming to the ears of the authorities, he was seized and carried off to Pristina, and, after being detained some time in prison there, was transported (with about 300 others) to Asia. All communication between the prisoners in Asia and their families has been cut off, and the only reports as to their condition that have reached their friends are due to a Serbian schoolmaster, who succeeded in escaping. It appears that several have already fallen victims to the rigour of their imprisonment, and whatever reports to the contrary may have been spread by the Turkish authorities, not a single individual has hitherto been liberated. So far, indeed, is this from being the case, that the threat of further arrests is now continually made use of as a means of extortion. The chief places of detention seem to be Trebizond, Diarbekir, Konjeh, and Acre, and several are still imprisoned in Salonica. Of the two chief informers, one is a Vlach of Pristina, who has since made himself Mahommedan, and swaggers about as "Omar Effendi." He has been decorated by the Sultan, and has just received a sum of money to make a pilgrimage to Mecca. The other is no less a personage than the Fanariote Archbishop of Skoplje, Paysios—for the Porte still appoints here its "spiritual Pashas."

Were there any reasonable prospect of a successful uprising, the motives for it

are certainly very strong. Since the conclusion of the Treaty of Berlin, the Christian population of Dardania has been tyrannized over as it never has been before within the memory of man. No words of mine can sufficiently describe the abject slavery in which the peasantry of this region is at present held. In village after village that I visited, wherever the inhabitants had an opportunity of speaking to me out of official hearing, I heard everywhere the same tale; and all to which I myself was a witness corroborated its truth. The zaptiehs, the visible agents of the Turkish Government, are practically omnipotent. On the slightest provocation the peasants are beaten or hauled off to the filthy dungeons of Velese, Uskup, or Pristina. The Turkish functionaries live at the villagers expense, and the way in which food, &c., is thus "requisitioned" would lead any one suddenly planted here to imagine that the country was in the military occupation of some invader. The most crying grievance, however, is the forced labour, or "angaria," which is exacted here with merciless brutality. Some new military magazines and a new road to Kumanova being in course of construction the "angaria" is just now exceptionally heavy, and I found villages the male population of which has had to undergo seven entire weeks of forced labour during the last four months. The value of hired labour here is about 6 to 10 piastres per diem, so that the money value of the labour thus exacted represents at a moderate estimate 294 piastres a-head, or nearly 900 piastres in the year. But the manner of enforcing this "angaria" considerably adds to its oppressiveness. No consideration is shown for the necessities of field labour, and men are literally beaten in from the plough or the harvest field. In most villages here the "métayer" system prevails—half the produce being paid to the Turkish landholder; in some of the mountain villages, however, the land is the peasant's own. It is, however, saddled with a land tax (varying according to the estimated value of each "dulum"), known as the "vergija," in addition to the payment of the Sultan's tithe. A poll tax of from 40 to 60 piastres (or more) is paid by every Rayah man and male child over 10 years of age, and is still known as the "haratch." The taxation itself, I imagine, is not so oppressive as the method of levying it and adding to it by irregular means. As a sample of the wholesale way in which the peasantry are "requisitioned," I may mention that on a market day, when all means of transport were specially needful to the villagers, I saw no less than twenty waggons with their drivers impressed by the Turks in a single large Bulgarian village.

In a large number of villages I found the churches fallen to ruin or non-existent altogether, and to my inquiries why they were not built or restored I received the never failing reply that their Turkish (*i.e.*, Mahommedan) neighbours would not allow it. This intolerance is not to be set down to the higher Turkish authorities, but to the local fanatics, whom, however, it is no part of their policy to thwart. In the matter of schools, however, these higher authorities seem only too prone to act as the champions of obscurantism. It is now only a few weeks since they made a raid on the Bulgarian school at Uskup, and seized and confiscated all the school books relating to history or geography. Henceforth the masters have had to content themselves with Church books. Everywhere the Christian schoolmaster is regarded as a suspected person, and with no class of the population is the dread of violence so constantly present.

Although a large part of the plain is vacouf of the mosques of Uskup, the authorities deny that the Christian churches or monasteries can hold lands in their own name. On the death of the Hegumen of the Monastery of Boujanski a few weeks since, the authorities at Uskup profited by the occurrence to seize and confiscate the lands of the monastery. The protests of the Orthodox community were unavailing, and, finally, to save the monastery from entire destitution, they had to repurchase the lands. The law of the land is still the Mahommedan religious law, and the complaints as to the non-admittance of Christian evidence are universal. As to the sentiments of the Christian population, I cannot do better than reproduce the words of a village Elder:—"There is no justice for us. We toil day and night, but the Turks take all our earnings, and even then they will not let us alone. We can't send our children to fetch water at the fountain but they are stoned or otherwise ill-treated. I tell you we will take off our caps to any King who comes to us. The yoke ('zulum') is more than we can bear."

July 1883.

No. 142.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 25.*)

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 15, 1883.

WITH reference to my Report of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch and one inclosure which I have addressed to Mr. Wyndham on the subject of two serious acts of brigandage which have been recently perpetrated in Macedonia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 142.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Salonica, August* 12, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th ultimo, forwarding information on the condition of affairs in the Vilayet of Monastir, I have the honour to inclose the extract from a recent letter of my Correspondent at Monastir reporting the capture by brigands of the leading members of the Sub-Governorship of Florina, viz., the Kaïmakam (Sub-Governor), Cadi (Judge), and Mal-Mudiri (Receiver of Taxes).

Florina (Filorna in Turkish) is a market-town, with a population of 7,000 souls. It is about five hours to the south-west of Monastir, the capital of the vilayet, and the head-quarters of the Third Army Corps!

My Correspondent furthers reports the particulars of another very grave outrage which was perpetrated on the 4th instant in the vicinity of Perlepé, a town about six hours to the north of Monastir.

It is also with a feeling of pain that I have to report another occurrence, which has caused general sensation in this place.

Mehmed Pasha, while on a visit to his farm of Ghida, in the district of Veria (Caraferia), about six hours from here, was surprised and captured on the 8th instant by a band of brigands, composed of nine native Greeks and four Tosca Albanians, under the leadership of Katzaro,

A very heavy ransom (some people say 20,000*l.*) is demanded for his release, and Hassan Pasha, the Military Governor, who is directly responsible for the maintenance of public security, has gone to the spot to attend to the matter.

The capture of Mehmed Pasha was not effected without some resistance on the part of his attendants, for three of them were wounded in trying to defend his Excellency. They wounded two of the brigands, one of them so severely that he could not follow his band; he was subsequently apprehended and brought to Salonica. He has made some important disclosures, which have enabled the authorities to lay hands on several persons who connived at the outrage.

Mehmed Pasha is more than 65 years old; he is a member of the Administrative Council of this vilayet, and the lineal descendant of Ali Bey Ewrenos, the conqueror of Salonica (A.D. 1430); he is respected and loved by all classes of the population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 142.

Extract from a Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Monastir.

UNTIL of late there has been nothing startling or important to write you about, so I have delayed sending you any information about the condition of things in this region.

We were rather startled, 27th July, to hear that the evening previous about 100 brigands entered the town of Florina, and carried off the Kaïmakam (Sub-Governor), the Mal-Mudiri (Receiver of Taxes), and two or three others, besides a zaptieh.

The affair appears to have been managed very cleverly, for they seem to have bagged their game before any one else suspected what was going on, and to have got off without hurting anybody or being hurt.

The Vali, Ahmet Eyoub Pasha, appears to be trying to capture them, and to this end seems to have set a lot of soldiers to scouring the mountains. Nothing, as far as I can learn, has been the result so far, and it is too late now to hope for much, except the arrest of villagers suspected of having fed or aided the brigands.

Last Saturday, the 4th instant, I went on a visit to Perlepé. About 5 P.M. the same day a volley or two of rifles was heard by several. It afterwards turned out to be a most revolting massacre.

Some ten or twelve villagers from the village of Doonya, in the Morihova district, four or five hours from Perlepé, while returning from the market in Perlepé, had passed the Chesmeh fountain, two-thirds the way up the mountain east-by-south of Perlepé, when, without warning, from two places, one partly in front and one behind, they were greeted by a shower of bullets. Three were killed and three badly wounded. It was said, and confirmed by two or three others, that the wounded men said they saw nobody, as the murderers were hidden behind stones. All indications show that the shooting was not done for plunder.

The alleged causes, as I heard them, were—

1. The village had secured the dismissal of the Yazuji, and he and his friends were paying them off.

2. The band of robber-hunters that were trying to catch George Lazoff and his brigand followers were returning to spend Baïram, and, as they had had a fruitless search, they took it into their heads to try their guns on a party of Bulgarian villagers, as unsuccessful hunters might think it fine to fire upon a flock of tame geese.

3. That the brigand chief, George Lazoff, and his band had done it, to punish the village for being an active party to the arrest of the father and brother of one of their number.

Though there have been a few murders this summer, the number has been less than usual, and, up to the raid on Florina, the state of the country was better than in past years. Since that raid murders and violence are more common. I was told that this brigand chief, George Lazoff, had killed several villagers because they had informed the Government of their whereabouts. Those poor villagers are between the upper and the nether millstone.

This Lazoff, though vigorously (for Turks) hunted the last three years, has carried on his brigandage (more for revenge than money) and eluded his pursuers.

There was some discontent in this region because so much was asked of the inhabitants to make roads. The Vali, Eyoub Pasha, however, has carried out most of his plans, or is progressing well in their execution. The universal testimony is that he takes no bribes, but the accusations against most of his subordinates are neither few nor weak.

The harvest this year is, I believe, above the average, though not up to previous expectations.

The public examinations were, I believe, quite creditable to all the schools. As soon as they were over, reports were circulated that the Roumanians were quarrelling among themselves over money matters, and that the Bulgarians were having a family "pow-wow."

Both Bulgarians and Roumanians have referred their "unpleasantnesses" to Constantinople.

Just now there is a report that, a few days ago, the brigands entered Malovishté village, and supplied themselves with bread.

August 8, 1883.

No. 143.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 17, 1883.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch of the 12th instant, copy of which he has forwarded to your Lordship, I have the honour to state that I

have brought the unsettled state of the Vilayet of Monastir to the notice of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 144.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 25, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that I have received two despatches from Mr. Acting Consul-General Tarring, inclosing Reports from Mr. Vice-Consul Dussi, which give a deplorable account of the brigandage now existing in the neighbourhood of Rodosto.

I have called the attention of the Sublime Porte to the state of affairs as reported.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 145.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 25, 1883.

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL BLUNT forwarded to me a copy of his despatch of the 30th ultimo, which he had addressed to your Lordship, and I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have brought to the notice of the Sublime Porte the condition of affairs in the Vilayet of Monastir, as reported in the Memorandum inclosed in Mr. Blunt's above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 146.

Further Report by Mr. Evans on the Present State of Dardania, &c.

(Part II.)

THE preceding observations on the present condition of Dardania have been mainly confined to the district south of the Shar range, and of which Skopia (Uskup) forms the principal centre. The remaining part of the country—the Kossovo district proper, the plain of Metochia, including the towns of Prisrend, Djakova, and Ipek (Peč)—is at present in a state of almost complete anarchy, and requires separate consideration; while in the more southern tract, for good or evil, Turkish government may still be said to exist, and while in the Mutessarillik of Uskup, at any rate, praiseworthy efforts are made to check non-official robbery and murder, I can only describe the state of things north of the Shar as a reign of terror. It is only at Pristina itself, the seat of the Vali Mitrovitza, and the immediate neighbourhood of the Macedonia Railway, that Turkish government can be said to be really existent. The exploration of this region is at present a matter of considerable risk, and though, with adequate precautions, it is possible for an Englishman (our nationality being favourably regarded by the Albanians) to visit some of the towns, many of the country districts are at the present moment as inaccessible as if they were in Central Africa. Under these circumstances, anything like a complete view of the state of the country is out of the question, and I must content myself with samples derived from a journey through some of the most interesting districts.

The day I arrived at Prisrend there were three cases of robbery with violence and murder in the immediate vicinity. From one village eighty sheep, together with the dogs and shepherds, were carried off by Arnaouts from Ljuma. A drove

of horses was attacked on the road, three of the drivers more or less severely wounded, one of the marauders being killed. A Turk was waylaid and killed also by Arnaouts, with five desperate gashes. In no case were the offenders brought to justice.

I found the Christian population, especially the Orthodox Serbs, in the most abject state of misery and degradation. The Serb seminary for teachers still exists, as it is under the direct protection and in the immediate vicinity of the Russian Consulate. The boys' and girls' school, however, is closed, as the schoolmaster was seized and transported to Asia,* while his wife, who taught the girls, fled to Serbia, and the terrorism is such that no one dares take their place.

The state of things in the Serb villages about is worse still; whereas in the Uskup district it is at any rate the Government, or its officials, who demand forced labour and requisitions. Here the Arnaouts, without any official commission, exact this "angaria," as it is called, for themselves. A few days since an Arnaout of the village of Kabaš ordered a Serb of the village of Koriš to work in his field for him; on the Serb not coming, the Arnaout hunted him down and murdered him. As the name and abode of the malefactor were perfectly well known, the villagers ventured to complain to "the authorities" at Prisrend. Zaptiehs were accordingly sent, but instead of going to Kabaš at all, they betook themselves to the Serbian village; lived at free-quarters on the villagers for two or three days, and then returned to the konak with the usual report that the murderer had managed to escape. In the case of a similar recent murder in the village of Kouša by the Arnaout Bairaktar, of the neighbouring village of Malahoča, zaptiehs were not even sent, and this worthy has been since allowed to occupy himself with the task of levying black mail of about 200 piastres a-head on various Christians of the neighbourhood. Old men say here that the "Zulum" (Turkish yoke) has never been so bad as now. Cases of beating are of almost daily occurrence, and the Arnaouts settle on the Christian villages in gangs, and live at free-quarters for days at a time. The Christian Government does nothing, and is, in fact, inspired and directed by the worst of the local fanatics. Christian evidence is not accepted, and the only code recognized is the Mahommedan sacred law.

The condition of the Catholic Albanians here, who are more or less under the ægis of Austria, is distinctly better than that of the Pravoslaves, but they still have to suffer endless vexations; and such is the present reckless temper of the Arnaout population here, that the Austrian Vice-Consul was himself shot at last autumn in the streets of Prisrend. Within the last few days the chief entrance to the Roman Catholic churchyard here had been walled up by the native fanatics, acting through the Turkish authorities. The church bell cannot be rung. The women have to go about veiled, as if they were Mahommedans. Twenty Miridites have recently been seized and imprisoned here for refusing to pay the military tax, the right of military service in lieu of this tax being, as is well known, one of their oldest privileges. Although the right of the Catholic Albanians to possess arms has hitherto been acknowledged, a Catholic here who had bought a gun of Austrian fabric was seized and thrown into prison, and has not since been allowed either to see his friends or to receive food or money from them. Don Marco (the hero of the well-known episode of the transportation of the Albanian Crypto-Catholics some thirty years ago) is at present the Catholic priest here, and, considering the martyrdom which he has himself endured, his opinion may be worth quoting: "Since the Treaty of Berlin the state of the Christian population here has been worse than I can ever remember it. Bad, however, as the condition of the Catholics is, that of the Greeks (*i.e.*, Orthodox Serbs) is infinitely worse. The savagery with which they are treated is fearful; they are beaten and murdered with perfect impunity, and the forced labour that they have to undergo at the hands of the Arnaouts passes belief."

At Djakova the state of public security was such that the Mudir dared not allow us (myself and my wife) to show ourselves in the street; and it was only subsequently, through the intercession of a local Aga, that we were allowed to visit a part of the bazaar. Two days before a murder had been committed in the principal street in the presence of Turkish zaptiehs, who discreetly turned their backs and walked away. The Christians here are terrorized over even worse than at Prisrend. As a sample of the ferocious spirit of the inhabitants, I may mention an incident, related to me on good authority, that occurred here a few weeks since. A Turk who had an illicit connection with a girl falsely accused an old Christian man (of 65)

* He has since escaped and returned to Serbia, of which he is a native.

as being the real culprit. The man was not even brought to trial; the native fanatics set upon him, and literally hacked him to death. After this his body was impaled, and the impaled corpse was finally used by the Arnaouts as a butt for their rifles. So far from molesting ourselves, however, many of the Arnaout Notables came to visit us and our quarters, and showed themselves friendly, though excessively curious.

The Old Serbian monastery of Dečani (the church of which is the most valuable art monument of the whole interior of the Balkan Peninsula) we found in a most pitiable condition. It is impossible to walk a hundred yards from the walled inclosure of the monastery without an armed guard. The wild Arnaouts are continually settling on the monks and living at free-quarters; only last year they burnt one of the out-buildings of the monastery, and fired volley after volley into the interior; one of the monks had had his hair and beard cut off three times, and had once literally had the knife at his throat. The most recent extortion to which they have been subjected by the Albanians is a system of forced "loans," never repaid. The peculiar significance of the state of things here lies in the fact that the monastery is Imperial vacouf, protected and privileged by the authority of innumerable Firmans.

In the Ipek (Peč) district the state of things is, if possible, worse than that of Djakova. Ali Pasha, of Gussinjé, is the Governor here, civil and military, but though powerful enough in his native town, he is here a mere puppet in the hands of the worst fanatics. He allowed us to visit the bazaar, but gave us a guard of eight armed Albanians while we did so, and even then the appearance of "Europeans" in the streets caused such a ferment that the Pasha dared not allow us to re-enter the Teharshi, or even to visit the Serbian school (though we succeeded in seeing that when subsequently leaving the town). The Patriarshia or Monastery (the former seat of the Serbian Patriarchs of Ipek before the exodus of Arsenius Tchernojevich) we found in much the same state as that of Dečani. The state of terrorism is such that three-fourths of the normal congregation dare not attend the church, the Christians being set on, shot at, and beaten by the Arnaouts on their way thither. The doors of the monastery itself are perfectly riddled with bullet-holes, and more than one murder has been committed in its immediate precincts. There are several house-fathers who dare no so much as venture outside their own yards. In this district alone there have been over 150 murders since the Treaty of Berlin, some of them of mere children. I have been supplied with data regarding ninety-two cases, and I am assured that in no single instance has the murderer met with punishment from the authorities. During the days I was at Ipek a great murder of a Serb occurred in the village of Gorazdova, where there have been recently two previous cases, and in the village of Trebovica there was a case of abduction of a characteristic kind. A Turk (Arnaout) persuaded a young Christian girl of 16 or 17 to marry him and turn Mahommedan. The girl's parents refused their consent. The authorities interfered so far as to seize the mother and convey her to the prison at Ipek (where she was when I left), while the Arnaout carried off her daughter. There have been five or six similar cases, and one of the leading Arnaouts here* commits with impunity outrages of a still grosser nature.

From what I heard there can be no room for doubt that there is an organized attempt by repeated acts of violence and robbery to drive out the whole Orthodox Serbian population that still exists in this nahié. Those who know the country best informed me that the Arnaouts, wild and lawless as they are, would not behave as they have been behaving unless they had got the wink to do so from those in power. The chief instigator of the worst outrages is universally recognized to be Mullazeg, a very wealthy Arnaout, who, with a knot of kindred spirits, has the Pasha and the Local Government entirely under his thumb. The oppression being more than can be borne, the Christian population are at present taking to flight whole villages at a time, and making their way towards the Serbian frontier. The greater part of the inhabitants of the following villages have already fled: Budisavac, Ruhat, Gjurgjevich, Phaoljani, Sverk, Kijevo, Osojani, Zablači, Kruševo, Zač, Josanica, Novoselo, Ottomanci, Dolac, Drsnik, Radulovci, Koš, Naglavka, Draguljeva, Istok, Gjurakovac, Nabržje, and a part of the inhabitants of Gorazdovac. The refugees have mostly reached the Serbian frontier: all hope to be able to return whenever this tyranny is overpast.

One result of the lawless defiance of all authority on the part of the Arnaouts

* Regja Balleh.

is that the tax farmers, who have to drop a certain sum, and who often cannot get their due from the Albanian part of the population, make the unfortunate Serb villagers pay for their oppressors as well as themselves. The "vergija," or land tax, especially, is frequently demanded twice or three times over, and, as no receipt is given, the villagers have no security against these extortionate demands. In committing this extortion the tax-gatherers find every assistance from the authorities (who are entirely in the Arnaout interest), and several Christians are at this moment in prison at Ipek for refusing, or being unable, to pay the same tax twice, or it may be three times over.

The Serb school at Ipek is not interfered with, though the schoolmaster lives in peril of his life. The Ottoman soldiers and officers in garrison here, although not used by the Porte as an instrument of order, are well disciplined, and their presence is rather welcome to the Christian inhabitants. On the other hand, there is abundant evidence of the close relations subsisting between some of the most abandoned Albanian ruffians and the Palace at Stamboul. Both here and at Prisrend, however, there are many worthy Mahommedans who would welcome any change that should put a stop to the present frightful anarchy.

In the neighbouring district of Kolašine I learnt that the same anarchic state prevailed, to which I myself was a witness, these two years since. The Christians are murdered and plundered there without redress, or the possibility of redress, as in the Ipek district.

On my way from Ipek to Mitrovitza I passed the night in the small Serbian village of Banja. For six hours the road ran across a fertile and well-watered and formerly thickly-populated plain, which has been reduced to a desert entirely void of habitation or cultivation. At Banja I found the villagers debating whether they should fly the country at once. The whole neighbourhood is a scene of horrors. Three days since a young Serb, Simo Lazarić, of the neighbouring village of Maidax, was bathing in the tepid spring from which Banja derives its name, when he was shot in cold blood and out of pure wantonness by an Arnaout from Dervišević. The day before, in the village of Djakorice, which is also near here, another young fellow, Josif Patakovič (æt. 20), was shot in the same way, and another Serb badly wounded. The church is in ruins. The inhabitants spent six months in trying to restore it, but the "Turks" destroyed it again. The school is also in ruins, and no schoolmaster dare stay. One old cripple asked me with tremulous eagerness if there was any chance of a war.

At Vučitrn I found the school closed, as the schoolmaster is in prison; it is believed at Salonica; and the Serbian Pope here, Danëo, has been in prison two years. At Janjevo, where the great bulk of the population is Catholic, the people had not so much to complain of bodily violence and murder as of illegal extortion. Here, again, taxes are demanded as much as three times over, for the benefit of the surrounding Arnaouts, who, to a great extent, go scot-free. The Crypto-Catholics, of whom there are large numbers in the Karadagh about Gilan, are perpetually trying to get some assurance of protection for the free exercise of their belief; the Gilan "Turks," with the connivance and sympathy of the local Governor,* declaring their intention to murder them and burn their villages should they openly profess Catholicism. The Franciscans at Janjevo have again and again appealed to the Porte to secure them the requisite protection, but the Porte has again and again put them off. The hold of the fanatical Mussulman party on the Palace is too strong for the Porte to act in the matter, even if it be liberally inclined. The Catholic monks here, as at Prisrend, corroborated the fact that the Pravoslaves are infinitely worse treated than the "Latins." And the news just arrived of a horrible murder of two Serbs, one shot and the other hung to a tree by Arnaouts, in a village near Gilan, sufficiently illustrates the fact.

In considering possible remedies to the present state of things in these regions, the following observations suggest themselves:—

1. The first, and most crying necessity—and about this I found an universal agreement of opinion—is a thorough-going disarmament of the Arnaouts. Those well acquainted with the country assured me that this might be effected with far greater ease than I was at first inclined to suppose. In the presence of resolute acts of authority the Arnaout shows a submissiveness astonishing to those who know him in his fiercer moments. The whole history of the "Albanian League" shows, indeed, how easily he may be guided.

* So, at least, the Franciscans were convinced.

On the other hand, it is extremely doubtful whether the Turkish Government can be induced to put forth such an exercise of authority. The intimate relations between many of the Chiefs and the Palace are notorious, and the greater part of these Arnaout desperadoes are armed with *Turkish Government Martinis*.

2. No settled Government can be hoped for while the worst malefactors are allowed to swagger about unpunished. The execution of a score or so of the worst characters, and those not the humbler instruments, but the practical Governors of the country—men like Mullazeg and his compeers—is at least as necessary as disarmament. But these leading offenders are precisely those who have most influence t Stamboul.

3. I observe that the Franciscans, who take their cue from Austria, are all in favour of some kind of Albanian Principality. Whether such has been the Austrian view or not of course I have no means of knowing; but if it has been so in the past, it is sufficiently evident that the growth of Slavonic influence in Austria will make it henceforth impossible for that Power to place the south Slavonic holy places, viz., Déchani and Ipek—the goals of Orthodox ambition from the Drave to the Macedonian borders—in Albanian keeping.

At the present moment, although the Albanians have everywhere the upper hand, the balance between the numbers of the Serb and Albanian population in the Kossova and Metochia district is, as far as I can judge, pretty even. Whenever settled government supervenes this will be no longer the case. The deserted plains will be again tilled, not by Albanian, but by Slavonic colonists. The tide of Slavonic colonization is already flowing up the Morava Valley into the part of Arnaoutluk acquired by Serbia at Berlin. The re-Slavonization of the Kossova and Metochia plains is only a question of time. By converting them into a desert the Turks have really been playing the Serbian game.

4. Apart from all economic considerations, and having solely regard to the tranquillization of the country, the importance of securing railway communication with the great plain of Metochia (at present the scene of the worst terrorism) deserves the most serious attention. I learn that the trace of a line leading from Scodra (Scutari d'Albania) across the Albanian Alps to the neighbourhood of Prisrend and Djakova has already been made, and presents serious difficulties only at one point. This line of communication is really of the highest eventual economic importance, as it would give the plains and highlands of Dardania—the chief mineral treasury of the peninsula—direct access to the Adriatic port. It would also find a continuation in Morava Valley line to Nisch, &c., and would coincide with a great line of Roman road, undertaken primarily as an engine of pacification and civilization amongst the wild forefathers of the Arnaouts.

The comparative security for life and property in the immediate neighbourhood of the existing line from Mitrovitza shows the great desirability of railway communication with the districts at present plunged in apparently hopeless anarchy.

5. The abolition of forced labour ("angaria") and "requisitioning" would remove one of the principal grievances of the rayahs. It is, however, about the last thing that the Turkish authorities will consent to. Were any local Governor to attempt to carry out such a reform and tax Mahommedan and Christian impartially, he would be at once intrigued against at Stamboul. As it is, the forced labour is practically a tax levied in the country districts where the Christians are in a majority (and almost exclusively on the *Christian* villagers) for the benefit of the towns where the "Turks" are in a majority.

Uskup (Skopia), August 11, 1883.

No. 147.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September 13.)

Therapia, September 5, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th June on the subject of the sentences pronounced upon the Christians of Kossova, I have the honour to state that although the Sublime Porte have addressed three letters to the Seraskeriate on the question, the case still remains in abeyance in the latter department.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 148.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received September 22.*)

My Lord, *Salonica, September 5*, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch, with one inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Mr. Wyndham on the subject of brigandage in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 148.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Salonica, September 5*, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a further despatch of Mr. Vice-Consul Capety relative to the pursuit and destruction of brigands in the Sandjak of Serres.

I beg leave to avail myself of this opportunity to report that Mehmed Pasha Ewrenos has been rescued from the brigands by the Turkish troops in the district of Catterina.

This happy termination is in a great measure due to the decision of the Governor-General Ghalib Pasha to have or permit no negotiations for the ransoming of the captive, and to pursue and attack the brigands.

This was effected in a far more expeditious and successful manner than was anticipated, for not only was Mehmed Pasha rescued scathless, but one of the brigands was killed and the rest dispersed by the troops employed in the pursuit.

Mehmed Pasha Ewrenos has distributed 900*l.* among the troops who effected his delivery, and 90*l.* among the seamen of the Turkish ship of war that was sent to convey him here from Catterina; and among the other liberal donations he has made may be mentioned the following: 90*l.* to the Turkish, 45*l.* to the Greek, and 45*l.* to the Jewish local schools.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 148.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le 29 Août*, 1883.

LA nuit du 27 au 28 de ce mois un détachement des troupes régulières commandé par le Colonel Mehmet Effendi ayant rencontré à Bozdag, trois heures environ loin d'ici, la bande obéissant à Apostoli Papasoglou de Dranovo, composée de sept brigands, a tué le chef de la bande et quatre de ses acolytes. Les deux brigands échappés sont blessés. Pendant la mêlée ont pu échapper sains et saufs deux prisonniers que les brigands avaient pris aux environs de Viznico il y a trois semaines. Les soldats ont eu un seul de mort.

Dans le district de Razlog ont été tués Samedi passé trois brigands à peine arrivés de Bulgarie.

Dans le district de Nevrocop a été tué un autre brigand, qui appartenait à la bande de Zimbil.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) CONST. CAPETY.

No. 149.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received September 22.*)

My Lord, *Salonica, September 5*, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a Report by Mr. Consular Agent Kypriotis on the condition of affairs in the district of Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Janina, August 9*, 1883.

WITH reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo, calling for information on the general state of the country, I have the honour to report as follows:—

First of all, and this is a good point to start from, as it gives an idea of affairs in general, is the gradual laxity of those who direct the affairs of the province, and as the public officials are for the most part natives, and connected to one another by family ties, their immediate action is influenced either by sympathy or animosity.

Although the Tribunals are, according to European system, under the supervision of a Director-General, they continue to run the same course as formerly; the Judges being, on the one hand, open to corruption, and, on the other, led by the more efficient member, because the greater part of them are ignorant and unable to give an opinion on questions more or less complicated; consequently, they are not free to decide and frequently commit illegalities, such as sending men to prison before any sentence is pronounced, and this takes place even in civil suits.

Another and the greatest scourge is brigandage, which, although sporadic, nevertheless keeps the inhabitants in constant fear, and compels them to remain at home. The result is not only migration and a thinning of the Christian population, but a great depression of trade. The chief cause of the existence of brigandage is that the persons who are intrusted with its suppression think of nothing else but how to fill their purse. The unfortunate peasantry are therefore a prey to their protectors, whom if they do not satisfy run the risk of being accused of complicity with brigands.

Besides the above another burden has recently fallen on them, at a time, too, when they are engaged in reaping, the construction of a carriage road from Janina to Liaskoviki, for every one must pay his share, and in default is forced to work.

This road has no commercial importance, but is purely military.

In conclusion, I beg to add that the Municipality is in such a state that the people have frequently petitioned for the dismissal of the various members, but to no purpose.

I made a brief statement of the above for your information; unfortunately, however, this state of things goes on for ever, the peasant not daring to say a word in his own defence, because he knows from experience that every word of his would be misconstrued, and the court-martial pointed out to him by way of threat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 150.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(*Received September 28.*)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 21*, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a letter which I have received from a student at Belgrade of the name of Alexander Kotchovitz, soliciting the intervention of Her Majesty's Government on behalf of his father, brother, and a friend confined along with many others in the prison of Salonica. I presume that the plea on which they were arrested was the same as

that on which so many others of the Christian inhabitants of Old Servia were about the same time thrown into prison at Prishtina, thence transferred to Salonica, and later, in many instances, to fortress prisons in Asia. The condition of these captives, who (there is now good reason to believe) have in many instances been the mere victims of the officious and malicious zeal of a renegade spy, has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Porte by Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, but, if the statement in this letter is true, without much practical result. A reference to my despatch of the 18th of last April, which contained the story of the escaped schoolmaster, George Kampérétitch, will show the acts of injustice and cruelty which the Turkish authorities are accused of having perpetrated in the case of the arrest, examination, and punishment of these peasants, some of whom would from that account appear to have been condemned for no greater crime than that of corresponding on political matters with persons in Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

Inclosure in No. 150.

M. Kotchovits to Mr. Locock.

Belgrade, le 3 (15) *Septembre*, 1883.

M. le Ministre,

JE prends la liberté de vous adresser cette demande, dans l'espoir que votre Excellence sera en état d'alléger le sort de mes parents. Né à Villeneuve (Nova Varoch), en Turquie, je passai en Serbie, et je suis actuellement à Belgrade les cours de l'École Réale.

Quelque temps après mon arrivée à Belgrade, j'apprends que les Turcs, sans le moindre motif, ont arrêté à Nova-Varoch et mis aux fers, mon père Stefan Kotchovits, mon frère Jean, et un autre citoyen, Vaça Boriçavljevits, et cela le 2 Octobre, 1882. Après avoir été incarcérés dix mois à Prishtina ils furent transférés à Salonique, où ils subissent actuellement avec 300 ou 400 autres Serbes la plus dure captivité, pendant que leurs femmes et leurs enfants périssent de misère.

Je vous supplie donc, M. le Ministre, d'intervenir en faveur de l'innocence qui souffre. Je suis sûr que grâce à votre intervention votre Gouvernement ordonnera une enquête qui me rendra mon père et mon frère.

Dans l'espoir que je ne me serai pas adressé en vain à votre Excellence, je reste, &c.
(Signé) ALEXANDRE KOTCHOVITS,
Élève de la cinquième classe de l'École Réale.

No. 151.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

Sophia, October 4, 1883.

My Lord,

IN a conversation which I have recently had with M. Zankow, I asked him whether there was any truth in a report which had reached me, that a band of thirty Turkish brigands had been committing ravages in the neighbourhood of Rustchuk, and had attacked one of the stations on the railway.

M. Zankow replied that the report was perfectly correct, and he had taken measures for the protection of the neighbourhood. He was inclined to suspect that the late Government had connived at, if they had not actually encouraged, this outbreak of brigandage. At all events, they had taken no steps to put a stop to it, and the fact that a railway station had been attacked proved the uselessness of the gendarmerie ("corps des dragons"). He was about to submit a measure to the Chamber for the suppression of this body, and to arrange for the formation of a guard selected by the villagers themselves. He would also propose that in the districts in which the majority of the inhabitants were Mussulmans a Turkish adjoint should be attached to the Prefect.

These proposals were submitted yesterday to the Chamber, and adopted with regard to those districts in which brigandage prevails.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 152.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

Foreign Office, October 19, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE to remind you that the Turkish Government has hitherto paid no attention to the representations which have been made by your Excellency and Mr. Wyndham on behalf of the Christian inhabitants of Old Servia, who have been for some time undergoing imprisonment on a charge of conspiracy against the Sultan's authority.

I inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade* who has been appealed to by M. Katchovitz, a student in that city, to obtain the release of his relatives who are imprisoned at Salonica. I have to request your Excellency to cause inquiry to be made into this matter, and to endeavour to induce the Turkish Government to deal leniently with the cases which you have been instructed to bring to their notice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 153.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received November 24.)

Sophia, November 14, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Circular which has been addressed by M. Zankow to the foreign Representatives at Sophia, stating the measures which have been taken by the Bulgarian Government with the view of suppressing brigandage and putting a stop to the emigration of the Turkish population in the eastern part of the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 153.

M. Zankow to Mr. Lascelles.

(Circulaire.)

Sophia, le 12 *Novembre*, 1883.

M. l'Agent,

LA situation des provinces orientales de la Principauté a été l'objet des préoccupations du Ministère Bulgare formé à la suite du rétablissement de la Constitution de Tirnovo.

Le brigandage qui infeste ces provinces, habitées en majeure partie par des Musulmans, et l'émigration de la population Turque, constituent deux faits contre lesquels il était opportun et nécessaire de réagir par des mesures énergiques d'une part, conciliatrices de l'autre, sur lesquelles je crois devoir, M. l'Agent, attirer votre bienveillante attention.

Pour combattre le brigandage le Gouvernement Princier, au lieu de recourir à des moyens extrêmes qui parfois dépassent le but qu'on se propose d'atteindre, s'est adressé au concours même des populations et, à cet effet, il a promulgué une Loi spéciale dont les dispositions répondent aux exigences de la situation et assurent le résultat de l'œuvre entreprise.

Ainsi que vous voudriez bien le relever dans cette Loi, dont je vous envoie ci-joint un exemplaire, il est constitué des compagnies de villageois choisis, sans distinction de culte, par chaque commune et nommés par le Sous-Préfet, armés aux frais de l'État et recevant une solde supérieure de 40 pour cent à celle attribuée aux gendarmes.

En outre, la Loi prévoit, en faveur des individus qui font partie de ces compagnies, les récompenses et les pensions spécifiées, dans des cas analogues, par la Loi sur la police.

Pour arrêter le mouvement d'émigration, et en enlever tout prétexte, le Gouvernement Princier a prescrit une série de mesures dont vous voudrez bien, M. l'Agent, reconnaître l'utilité pratique, ainsi que l'esprit de conciliation qui les a inspirées; elles

* No. 150.

démontrent la sollicitude que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse apporte à tout ce qui intéresse la population Musulmane.

En premier lieu, la Loi que je viens de mentionner stipule que dans vingt arrondissements, compris dans les régions de Silistria, Varna, Choumla, Razgrad, Roustchouk, et Tirnovo, et où la population est mixte, un Musulman désigné par son expérience et par sa connaissance de l'état et des besoins de la commune, est désormais adjoint à chaque Sous-Préfet, auquel il doit prêter son concours afin d'assurer l'exécution des mesures prises en général au point de vue administratif, et de celles en particulier qui sont édictés pour combattre les brigands et faire cesser l'émigration. L'adjoint Musulman du Sous-Préfet a mission aussi de s'occuper des intérêts et des besoins particuliers de ses coreligionnaires.

D'ailleurs, cette mesure d'ordre administratif avait été déjà introduite dans le domaine judiciaire. En effet, l'Assemblée Nationale a voté, dans sa Session actuelle, la motion d'adjoindre aux Tribunaux de Première Instance des districts où la population Turque est en majorité; notamment à Roustchouk, Silistria, Razgrad, Choumla, et Varna; un membre Musulman, si même celui-ci ignore la langue officielle. Cette motion a reçu la sanction de Son Altesse, et l'amendement y relatif a été porté à l'Article 102 de la Loi Judiciaire.

Aussi bien, dans les Tribunaux de Roustchouk, Choumla, et Varna, où des places étaient vacantes, le Ministère Princier de la Justice s'est-il empressé de nommer les individus qui, d'après les indications même des Députés Musulmans, méritent d'occuper ce poste, par leur longue expérience et par la réputation dont ils jouissent auprès de la population Turque.

Une autre disposition non moins favorable à cette population se rapporte aux jeunes gens qui, fréquentant les Écoles dites "Médressés," se destinent au service du culte et à l'enseignement. Par suite de la décision prise à leur égard par le Gouvernement Princier, ces jeunes gens sont exempts du service militaire. J'ajouterai cependant que la faveur dont il s'agit n'est accordée qu'aux jeunes gens qui suivent d'une façon permanente les cours des Médressés, mais non à ceux qui, étant sur le point d'atteindre l'âge requis par la conscription, conformément à la Loi sur le recrutement, entreraient à l'École dans le but d'échapper au service militaire.

Je me permettrai de vous signaler aussi, M. l'Agent, la motion votée par la Chambre des Députés dans sa séance du 20 Septembre dernier relativement à la sépulture des Musulmans, et qui, bien qu'elle ait trait à un fait réglé d'une manière uniforme et sans exception, par les lois de tous les pays, est une preuve de l'esprit de tolérance dont le Gouvernement Princier est animé pour ce qui regarde les usages et les pratiques du rite Islamique.

Une dernière mesure, dont l'importance attirera spécialement votre attention, concerne les propriétés des Musulmans émigrés de la Principauté.

Vous n'ignorez pas, M. l'Agent, que cette question a de tout temps préoccupé le Gouvernement de Son Altesse. Des délais furent, à deux reprises différentes, accordés aux émigrés pour leur permettre de retourner en Bulgarie et de rentrer en possession de leurs immeubles.

Le Ministère actuel n'a pas manqué de faire la part des circonstances exceptionnelles dans lesquelles se trouvent les émigrés Musulmans, et dans le but de faciliter leurs démarches, il a résolu de leur donner un nouveau délai pour pouvoir revenir dans le pays et reprendre possession de leurs propriétés. Un Décret Princier vient en conséquence de porter ce délai jusqu'au 1er Janvier, 1885, qui précise ainsi l'époque définitive à laquelle l'État entrera en possession des immeubles restés sans propriétaires.

Telles sont, M. l'Agent, les mesures d'ordre administratif et judiciaire que le Gouvernement Princier a jugé nécessaire de prendre en vue d'enrayer le mouvement d'émigration et de réprimer le brigandage qui se montre par intervalle dans la partie orientale de la Principauté. Je ne doute pas que le Gouvernement Royal d'Angleterre, auquel je vous prie de vouloir bien les communiquer, voudra bien y puiser la conviction que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse ne laisse pas de témoigner à la population Musulmane toute sa sollicitude et tout l'intérêt qu'elle mérite.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) D. ZANKOW.

No. 154.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received December 8.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, December 1, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my despatch of this day's date to the Earl of Dufferin, and of its inclosure, relating to a brutal act of brigandage committed a few days back in the district of Zagori.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 154.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, December 1, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of Mr. Kypriotis' despatch, dated the 22nd ultimo, relating to the capture, by brigands, and subsequent release, of seven individuals at Zagori, and which, unfortunately, goes to prove that, although brigands have of late been less frequently heard of, their acts, whenever they have an opportunity to commit them, have not lost any of their former ferocity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 154.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Janina, November 22, 1883.*

IN my despatch I had the honour to report to you the capture at Dustiniko, Zagori, of the son of a certain Stefano, as well as of six more men and women. Lately, however, one of the men and the youth paid 250 liras to the brigands and were released, but the three women and the other two men were released after the noses of the former and the ears of the latter had been cut off.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 155.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 24.)

My Lord, *Salonica, December 4, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to the Earl of Dufferin, reporting that the notorious brigand chief, Nicko, who was concerned in the capture of Colonel Synge, has recently taken refuge in Thessaly with his brothers, Vassili and Tollio.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 155.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, December 4, 1883.*

THE Military Pasha of Salonica informed me on the 30th ultimo that the notorious brigand chief, Nicko, who was concerned in the capture of Colonel Synge,

had very recently taken refuge in Thessaly with his two brothers, Vassili and Tollio, Nicko disguised as a Greek monk and his brothers as Greek peasants; and yesterday his Excellency further informed me that these three brigands have gone to the village of Bouyuk-Kirli or Kontchuk-Kirli, in the above province.

I have telegraphically reported this information to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens.

I should add that the Military Pasha complains that the Greek frontier authorities have recently relaxed their vigilance against the brigands, who take refuge in Thessaly when hard pressed by the Turkish troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 156.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 24.)

My Lord, *Salonica, December 4, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to the Earl of Dufferin, forwarding a translated copy of a letter from Colonel Kemal Bey, the Commandant of Catterina, giving the particulars of the escape of the brigand chief, Nicko, into Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 156.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, December 4, 1883.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, reporting to your Lordship that the notorious brigand chief, Nicko, who was concerned in the capture of Colonel Synge, has taken refuge in Thessaly, with his two brothers, Vassili and Tollio, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a private letter which I have received from Colonel Kemal Bey, the Commandant of Catterina, giving full particulars on the subject.

Colonel Kemal Bey is one of the officers who assisted me in my negotiations with the brigands for the release of Colonel Synge; and Tchardi, the man who has facilitated the escape of Nicko across the Greek frontier, was confidentially employed by me, with the approval of the Turkish authorities, in forwarding these negotiations.

Colonel Kemal Bey states that some fifteen brigands have recently taken refuge in Thessaly, and complains that the monasteries support brigandage in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 156.

Colonel Kemal Bey to Consul-General Blunt.

(Translation.) *Catterina, November 27, 1883.*

THANKS to the Grace of God and to your attention, Captain Nicko has given up all hopes, and has taken a vow that he will never be a brigand again. I was after him for more than twenty days; the "great" captain became hungry, he could not obtain bread, and at last only his brothers, Vassili and Tollio, and another remained with him, four persons in all. However, his time for death had not yet come, though he escaped death from ambuscades three or four times. He thought he could live in these parts this year as he had done before. Finally, he went to the Petra Monastery three or four days ago, and, by means of Chardi, he and his companions intrusted a gold watch, a silver-mounted sword, a gold ring, and their silver drinking cups to a priest there, and to the steward, Christo; this was done by Chardi's means. Nicko then put on the dress of a priest; he also took for his brothers and for the other man three suits of peasants' clothes. Thus the "great" captain has trodden his reputation under foot; one would imagine that, like a base person, he had taken a vow, and so adopted the costume of a monk, as if nothing had happened. Chardi gave him a guide, and the fellow escaped into Greece; now is this what a brigand chief would do? He is not equal to what Captain Kamber Gani or Rifat were; he has simply run away; this is not the act of a brigand chief, it is that of a mere fugitive. Now, ought Chardi to have allowed this? You are the chief complainant against Nicko. If Chardi had not done this it is certain that Nicko would have been captured; what would it have been to him if he had given information to us, but he did not do it. We have been trying to capture the cursed fellow for twenty or thirty days on the tops of the mountains, in rain, wind, and mud; what animal or man can stand that?

Accordingly, it appears that Chardi took charge of the articles and intended to join Nicko in Greece. You must be very much annoyed at all this. He even confesses and acknowledges his fault himself. His case is before a court-martial, and will be tried according to the usual forms.

This is the whole truth. Thanks to Providence, I have done this much; there is now not one brigand left free. Yesterday evening Lacharo also was seen below Litochori; he has a companion with him, and is wounded in the feet; the Monastery of Agios Dionissi sheltered him also, and his wounds were tended there for more than twenty days. Is this right, I beg of you? all these evils arise through the collusion of the Monasteries. The pursued brigands all escape to Greece; up to now fifteen of them have passed the frontier. I beg of you, who are our well-wisher, to find some means of dealing with this matter. This note was written in a hurry. My respects to Mrs. Blunt and to yourself.

(Signed) KEMAL.

No. 157.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

My Lord, *Salonica, December 11, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch and its inclosures which I addressed on the 6th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting certain Christians of the Vilayet of Cossova who have been tried and condemned on the charge of conspiring against the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 157.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, December 6, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. Wyndham of the 22nd March last respecting certain Christians of the Vilayet of Cossova who were tried and condemned on the charge of conspiring against the Porte, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a Memorial which has been sent to me by these prisoners.

I have asked the Governor-General, Ghalib Pasha, to use his influence with the Vali of Cossova in behalf of these unfortunate people. His Excellency kindly promised to make inquiries into their case, and ordered the "Nazir" or Governor of the convict prison at Salonica to report upon it.

In a subsequent interview Ghalib Pasha told me that he very much regretted that he could not interfere in the matter, as the sentence of the Military Court of Cossova condemning the prisoners has been confirmed by the Seraskier.

He was good enough to furnish me with the inclosed copy of the Report of the Nazir of the prison.

I inclose a translation of this Report, and beg leave to add that my Russian collegue, who takes great interest in the fate of these prisoners, has informed me that the Russian Embassy at Constantinople had requested the Porte to press the Seraskier to reconsider their case.

I have been informed by persons who have recently visited the Vilayet of Cossova, that since the removal from that district of the renegade, Omer Effendi, complained of in the Memorial I have inclosed, very few Christians have been prosecuted by the military authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 157.

Memorial of certain Christians of the Vilayet of Cossova who are imprisoned at Salonica.

A M. le Consul-Général d'Angleterre :
M. le Consul,

NOUS Soussignés, citoyens de huit différentes villes de la Province de Cossova, fûmes appelés l'année dernière au 10 Janvier à Prichtina, où on nous emprisonna aussitôt après nous avoir fait passer par un Conseil de Guerre, qui par deux fois statua sur notre malheureux sort.

A la première séance le Conseil de Guerre nous posa des questions politiques qui nous étonnèrent au dernier point par leur nouveauté pour nous. A la dernière séance ce même Conseil nous présenta un homme qui se faisait appeler Nicolas, et qui déposa contre nous, en disant qu'il y avait peu de temps que nous avions eu des relations, et étions en correspondance secrète, avec le Gouvernement Serbe.

Quand sur cela on nous emprisonna, notre calomniateur était aussi enfermé dans une prison et gardé de façon à l'empêcher d'avoir des relations avec qui que ce fut. Il avait été, disait-on, arrêté parce qu'il n'avait pas de passeport, mais, chose étrange, aussitôt que cet homme eut ourdi la trame de ces ténébreuses et infâmes intrigues, dès qu'il eut changé son nom de Nicolas en celui d'Eumer, et qu'il eut renié sa foi en se faisant Mahométan, les portes de sa prison s'ouvrirent toutes grandes devant lui.

Nous ne tardâmes pas après cinq mois et demi de réclusion à Prichtina à être envoyés le 24 Juin de l'année dernière ici à Salonique. Nous fûmes à notre arrivée emprisonnés à Ak-Koulé ("Tour Blanche") avec les fers aux pieds. Nous y menons depuis lors une vie affreuse, nous pleurons notre liberté injustement perdue, et nos familles plongées par notre absence dans le désespoir et la misère.

Pendant notre réclusion à Prichtina trois de nos malheureux compagnons de chaîne moururent. Nous avons maintes fois adressé des requêtes à son Excellence le Vali et Ibrahim Pacha, le Président du Conseil de Guerre, en les priant de ne pas condamner ainsi des innocents sur la déposition d'un seul témoin, et qui plus est, homme sans principes et de mœurs corrompues. Nous prions ardemment leurs Excellences d'ouvrir une enquête sur notre compte, d'interroger tous ceux qui nous connaissent, et s'assurer enfin de ces diverses preuves, puisées à la source même, dans nos localités, de notre caractère, et de la conduite que nous y avons toujours menés. Il y eut pour quelques-uns de nous des élans spontanés de la part de la population, qui assuraient l'autorité de notre soumission et de notre inaltérable fidélité de notre bien-aimé Sultan, Sa Majesté Abdul Hamid II.

Malheureusement le Gouvernement ne prit en considération ni nos requêtes ni les démarches de la population. Par contre, il prit de plus en plus en faveur les rapports du renégat Nicolas, et maintint sa sentence.

Depuis que nous nous trouvons ici à Salonique nous avons pris la liberté une fois, le 11 Octobre, 1882, d'avoir recours à vos bons offices. Nous n'eûmes, à notre très grande douleur, aucune réponse, et les murs de la prison continuent à peser sur nous de tout leur poids. La vie présente est pour nous affreuse, car nos jours les plus beaux s'écoulent dans les pleurs et dans une agonie de tous les instants; mais, comparée à ce que l'avenir nous réserve d'angoisses quand l'âge et les souffrances nous auront courbés, peut-être même brisés, la vie présente sera douce si nous avons l'espoir d'une prochaine délivrance.

Quarante à cinquante personnes furent dernièrement libérées, quoique accusées par ce même Nicolas. L'autorité de Salonique les reconnut innocents des crimes imputés par Nicolas le renégat calomniateur. La calomnie fut donc avérée car les

calomniés passèrent par un jugement sévère mais juste. Pourquoi serions nous pas justiciables par devant le même Tribunal, puisque nous sommes emprisonnés pour la même cause et pour la même calomnie.

Pour les personnes susmentionnées les Consuls firent des démarches; ne pourraient-ils, ne pourriez-vous, M. le Consul, faire pour nous ce que vous avez fait pour elles? Ce serait de votre part un acte des plus honorables et des plus charitables. Vous feriez de nous des hommes qui vous seraient dévoués et reconnaissants toute leur vie, car vous les aurez rendus à la liberté et à leurs familles. Croyez, M. le Consul, que nos voix, que celles de nos femmes et de nos enfants, s'élèveront tous les jours vers Dieu pour la conservation d'une santé aussi précieuse que la vôtre. Nous le prierons de bénir et d'accorder richesses et bonheur à vos enfants.

(Signé) ICONOM CHTIPSKI.
(Et 17 autres.)

Salonique, le 14 (26) *Octobre*, 1883.

Inclosure 3 in No. 157.

Names of the Persons condemned by the Military Court of Kossova and sent to the Salonica Prison.

(Translation.)

ECONOMI PAPA ANASTASSE, of Istep. Ten years' imprisonment, beginning from 17th November, 1881. Charge: assisting and sheltering brigands. Official note, No. 55; 14th July, 1882.

Papa Istuzian (Pope Sultan). Seven years' imprisonment, beginning from 14th November, 1881. Charge: same as above. Same official number.

Papa Spaso (Pope Spaso Popoff). Fifteen years' imprisonment, beginning from 25th November, 1881. Charge: brigandage. Same number.

Michail Veledi Christo (Michel Christo Popoff). Six years' imprisonment, beginning from 14th November, 1881. Charge: assisting and sheltering brigands. Same number.

Dascoll Yusuf Veledi Yuvan. Eight years' imprisonment, beginning from 14th November, 1881. Charge: same as above. Same number.

Hadgi Tasso Hadji Stancoff. Seven years' imprisonment, beginning from 14th November, 1881. Charge same as above. Same number.

Manasse Hadji Stancoff. Seven years' imprisonment, beginning from 14th November, 1881. Charge: same as above. Same number.

Ungrine Tiripoff (Ougrine Tirptcheff). Eight years' imprisonment, beginning from 20th November, 1881. Charge: same as above. Same number.

Georgy Oglou Akita (Afksenti Georgeff). Eight years' imprisonment, beginning from 5th December, 1881. Charge: same as above. Same number.

Mita Oglou Dele (Dela Mikitche). Eight years' imprisonment, beginning from 14th November, 1881. Charge: assisting and sheltering brigands. Same number.

Stefan Hadji Arsoff. Eight years' imprisonment, beginning from 14th November, 1881. Charge: same as above. Same number.

Mita Mandel (Mitka Milincoff). Imprisonment for life, beginning from 2nd December, 1881. Charge: brigandage. Same number.

Bojine Apostoff. Seven years' imprisonment, beginning from 29th October, 1881. Charge: assisting and sheltering brigands. Same number.

Traico Anguelcoff. Eight years' imprisonment, beginning from 19th November, 1881. Charge: same as above. Same number.

Mitco Veledi Manca. Eight years' imprisonment, beginning from 19th November, 1881. Charge: same as above. Same number.

Volcitrin Seconomi. Imprisonment for life, beginning from 14th November, 1881. Charge: brigandage. Same number.

I certify that the criminals whose names are written above are now in confinement in the prison of the White Tower.

(L.S.) (The Mudir of the Prison of the Salonica Vilayet.)

November 11, 1883.

No. 158.

Earl Granville to Mr. Egerton.

Foreign Office, January 8, 1884.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch of the 7th ultimo, forwarding two despatches which you had received under flying seal from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, relative to the escape into Thessaly of the brigand chief, Nicko, and his brothers, Vassili and Tollio.

I have to instruct you to urge the Greek Government to concert measures with the Turkish authorities for the suppression of brigandage in the vicinity of the frontier, as was formerly done, in accordance with the terms of the Turco-Greek Convention of the 8th (20th) April, 1856. (See State Papers, vol. lvi, p. 1389.)

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 159.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

Foreign Office, January 8, 1884.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatches to your Excellency of the 4th ultimo on the subject of the escape into Thessaly of the brigand chief, Nicko, and his brothers, Vassili and Tollio, I have to state, for your information, that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens has been instructed to urge the Greek Government to concert measures with the Turkish authorities for the suppression of brigandage in the vicinity of the frontier, as was formerly done, in accordance with the terms of the Turco-Greek Convention of the 8th (20th) April, 1856. (See State Papers, vol. lvi, p. 1389.)

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 160.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received January 8, 1884.)

Salonica, December 20, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, translated extracts from the "Cossova Gazette" relative to the pursuit by the Ottoman authorities of certain Mussulman marauders who have been raiding on the frontiers of Servia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 160.

Extracts from the "Cossova Gazette" of December 5, 1883.

Extract No. 1.

(Translation.)

NEWS had been received from Servia that a man named Zeobir-bin-Suleyman, of the village of Mirovtcha, in the district of Pristina, who for a year had been following bad courses, had for some time been stealing cattle, and had also massacred a Servian. In consequence an order was given for his arrest, both by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Court-martial: the carrying out of this order was intrusted by the police authorities to a sergeant of zaptiehs named Osman Berhaza Chaoush.

We learn from a Report from the Central Police authorities that on the 18th instant Osman Chaoush met the brigand on the road between the villages of Domeniche and Budina; he communicated the charge made by the authorities to

him, but Zeobir-bin-Suleyman would not listen to it, and had the audacity to draw his weapons at once; he then succeeded in joining his companions, Sherif and Kako, on a neighbouring hill, and commenced firing on the zaptiehs. On this Osman Chaoush, in conformance with his instructions, returned the fire with his men.

After a fight of about two hours the ruffian was wounded and captured alive, and brought into the central prison hospital of the vilayet, where he is being tended.

Sherif and Kako managed to escape, though wounded.

We give the greatest praise to Osman Chaoush, and to the zaptiehs who were with him, for their very brave conduct, and we have no doubt that they will use their utmost efforts to effect the capture of the two ruffians who escaped.

Extract No. 2.

Some cattle having also been stolen lately from Servia by seven ruffians belonging to the villages of Sekratch, Mudir Goytche, and Hartije, in the district of Pristina, the measures which were taken with regard to the affair have been successful, and the Councils of the "Mukhtar" and Elders of these villages have at once taken steps to obtain the restitution of the stolen cattle, and have handed them over to the Servian authorities; and we learn from a Report made by the Central Police authorities that special orders having been given to arrest the brigands who have escaped with a sufficient number of zaptiehs, Yunous Chaoush has succeeded in capturing the following: Zinoullah-ben-Ali, Ahmet-ben-Tahir, Fetah-ben-Hassan, Bairam-ben-Demir, and Shaban-ben-Bellal, who are now in custody, and whose examination is being conducted by court-martial.

With regard to the capture of these brigands, the zeal and activity of both the authorities and the Councils of the Mukhtar and Elders of the villages, as well as that of the sergeant of zaptiehs and his men, are worthy of the highest praise.

No. 161.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received January 28.)

Athens, January 21, 1884.

My Lord,

IN accordance with your Lordship's despatch of the 8th instant, I have urged M. Tricoupis to concert with the Turkish Government for the suppression of brigandage on the Greco-Turkish frontier, in accordance with the terms of the Convention of 1856 for that purpose, which lapsed about five or six years ago.

His Excellency said, after the Frontier Convention of May 1881, one Article of which (Article XII) specially mentioned the renewal of the Brigandage Convention of 1856, Greece had officially invited the Turks to renew that old Turco-Greek understanding.

The Turks, however, would not agree to the old arrangement without modifications. They objected, amongst other things, so I understood M. Tricoupis to say, to the passing of the frontier of one Power by the troops of the other.

"No," said the Greeks; "first return to the old arrangement, and then afterwards we will consider the modifications you propose."

The Greeks have repeated their demand without success; so that, according to M. Tricoupis, Greece is not to blame for there being no Turco-Greek Convention in force for the prevention of brigandage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON

No. 162.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

Foreign Office, February 12, 1884.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th ultimo, I transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens relative to the desire of the Greek Government to renew the arrangement of 1856

for the suppression of brigandage on the Greco-Turkish frontier.* I have to request your Excellency to take an opportunity of recommending the Porte to come to an understanding with Greece on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 163.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May 6, 1884.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of the despatch which I addressed on the 2nd instant to Lord Dufferin relative to the improved state of public security in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, May 2, 1884.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Greek and Jewish communities at this place, as well as at Monastir, Uscup, Serres, and other towns in the interior, have celebrated their Paschal festivals in the midst of perfect tranquillity.

I have also the satisfaction to report that the state of public security in the Vilayet of Salonica has sensibly improved within the last six months. Most of the leading brigand chiefs have been either killed or captured, and from all I hear and observe, the Turkish authorities seem to have at last got the mastery over the lawless classes in the southern districts of Macedonia. This satisfactory result is in a great measure due to the care and vigilance displayed by the Vali, Ghalib Pasha, and to the good relations which subsist between the Turkish and Greek frontier authorities.

In the northern districts of Macedonia, particularly in those contiguous to Bulgaria, the inhabitants continue to be molested, but not to the same extent as in past years, by bands of Bulgarian brigands who cross over from the direction of Kustendil and Dubnitza; and the Turkish authorities complain of the Bulgarian frontier authorities not taking adequate measures to prevent the formation of these bands and their dispatch into Turkish territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 164.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June 8, 1884.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch, with two inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the condition of the prisoners at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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* No. 161.

Inclosure 1 in No. 164.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, June 8, 1884.*

I HAVE delayed forwarding the inclosed Report by Mr. Assistant Guinness on the condition of the Central Prison at Salonica in order to obtain, if possible, some further information respecting the prisoners, more particularly respecting those from Cossova who have been condemned by the court-martial of that vilayet on charges of conspiring against the Porte.

I regret to say that the information which I have procured on the subject is not as complete as I should wish.

According to the inclosed Return, there are at present 775 persons imprisoned at Salonica; 550 of them are condemned, and 225 are awaiting trial.

Four hundred and forty-seven of these prisoners are kept in the Central Prison named "Ak Koulé," White Tower, and 328 in the "Zindan," a prison near the Government Offices.

The female prisoners, nine in number (three Mahommedans and six Christians), are, from all I hear, very poorly lodged in a separate prison, which is dirty and badly ventilated.

Two hundred and sixty-three of the male prisoners are Mahommedans, 485 are Christians, and 27 are Jews; 690 are natives of the Vilayet of Salonica (262 Mahommedans, 401 Christians, and 27 Jews), and 85 are from the Vilayets of Cossova and Janina (1 Mahommedan and 84 Christians).

My informant could not say how many of the latter are from Cossova, but thinks that their number does not exceed 40.

The "Zindan" prison is not, from all I hear, so well kept as the Central Prison; it is overcrowded, imperfectly ventilated, and the atmosphere, especially in the wards on the ground-floor, is very close and noisome.

The wards and cells on the second story are in a better condition as regards accommodation and ventilation. They are occupied by prisoners waiting to take their trial, and offenders sentenced by the correctional police to short terms of imprisonment.

With reference to the Christians of Cossova who are imprisoned at Salonica, I am assured that nearly all of them were condemned by the court-martial of that vilayet on charges fabricated by the renegade, Omer Effendi, whose infamous proceedings in the matter have been reported to your Excellency.

In appealing again in behalf of these unfortunate prisoners (*vide* my despatch of the 6th December, 1883), I beg leave to add that the sympathy which is generally felt for them arises from the prevalent impression that they have not had a fair trial.

Be this as it may, it is confidently hoped that the Sultan will extend to them the same clemency His Majesty has so graciously manifested a short time ago in pardoning and sending back to their homes 252 individuals (178 Mahommedans and 74 Christians) who were exiled by the Military Courts of Salonica, Cossova, Monastir, and Janina for alleged criminal proceedings against the Ottoman Government.

Of the 74 Christians who have been pardoned, 10, I am told, belong to the Vilayet of Cossova; hence the hopes generally entertained that the rest of the Cossova prisoners will also be liberated; and in this connection I venture to submit the opinion that, in view of the improved state of public tranquillity in the Vilayets of Salonica and Cossova, the time is ripe for granting a general pardon to all Turkish, Greek, and Bulgarian political prisoners, and for suppressing the Military Courts in these provinces.

In conclusion, great credit is due to Ghalib Pasha, the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Salonica, for the care and attention which he has given to the prisons in this town and their unfortunate inmates. Great room as these establishments leave for improvement they are, on the whole, in a better condition than they used to be in, and superior to most Turkish prisons.

I have omitted to mention a circumstance connected with the name of the Central Prison of Salonica. This prison was formerly called the "Kanlu Koulé" (Bloody Tower), on account of its having been the scene of numerous executions during the Greek revolution, and was generally known by that name until last

year, when His Majesty the Sultan happened to read some documents from Salonica in which the name "Kanlu Koulé" occurred.

He at once telegraphed an order to the Vali of Salonica to have it changed to "Ak Koulé" (White Tower), and to prohibit it being called by its former name under penalty. The prison was accordingly whitewashed, and the use of its new name has now become universal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 164.

Mr. Guinness to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonica, April 30, 1884.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report the following information, which I obtained respecting the condition of the prison at Salonica when I visited it last month in company with Mr. Consul-General Fawcett and yourself.

It is the central convict prison for the Vilayets of Salonica, Monastir, Kossova, and Janina, and contains at present about 440 prisoners, condemned for the most part for murder, brigandage, and serious political offences.

The prison consists of a round Genoese tower of considerable size and height, built in the same manner as the Galata Tower at Constantinople, which it very much resembles.

The tower, named Ak-Koulé (White Tower), stands in the centre of a court-yard about 50 yards square, surrounded by walls 30 feet high, having a small tower at each corner, which are used as quarters for the military guard.

Access to the courtyard is obtained through an archway, separated from it by a double set of strong wooden bars, the space between which is used as a visiting-room for the prisoners' friends.

The Prison hospital is situated on one of the sides of the quadrangle. It contained about twenty men, only four of whom belonged to the Ak-Koulé, the remainder having been sent there from the other prison of Salonica. The patients were suffering chiefly from colds, and there were one or two cases of fever. They seemed to have enough clothing, and to be well cared for. The place also was clean, and kept in fair order.

The doctor informed me that the prison was healthy, and that the average of sick was only 1 per cent.

A winding passage, gradually sloping upwards, leads to the different stories of the tower, of which there are six. Each story consists of a large room, and contained from fifty to sixty men. Some of these rooms were well-lighted and ventilated, according to the number of their windows. One room, however, had no windows, and obtained light only from the window of the passage and through the bars of the door. In this room candles were burning. Besides these large rooms there are several small cells built in the thickness of the walls of the passage, each of which has a window, and contains from six to eight men. The top story consists of a large room, well-lighted and ventilated, of circular form; the windows of which look out on to the flat terrace on the top of the tower. The worst characters are confined in this story, and seemed to be chiefly Albanians.

The prisoners have fixed hours for exercise, and are allowed to use the winding passage, the top of the tower, and the courtyard for this purpose. The prisoners complained of not being allowed enough exercise, but I was informed that they have two hours for exercise during the twenty-four, the occupants of one story only being allowed out at the same time, and that they were formerly allowed much more liberty, but owing to their having made several attempts to escape this privilege was restricted.

The guards or warders never enter the prison armed, as they are afraid of the prisoners overpowering them, and so obtaining arms.

The prison is, on the whole, in very fair order. The passage and courtyard were clean.

I had no means of judging as to the interior of the cells, as I did not enter them, but they seemed fairly comfortable. One of the rooms, to which I have previously alluded as having no windows, seemed overcrowded, and had a very close smell. The prisoners seemed to be well fed, their daily rations being

2 lbs. 1 oz. of bread per day; and they made no complaints on this subject. Besides their rations, they are allowed to buy food from a small shop near the prison.

As far as I could judge from our short visit to this prison the place was in very fair order, and the prisoners well treated.

On leaving the prison two Petitions were presented to us, with the permission of the warders. I have, in compliance with your instructions, made inquiries with reference to the antecedents of the two prisoners who wrote these Petitions, and have received information from a very trustworthy source that there is no doubt as to their being guilty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. T. GUINNESS.

P.S.—I obtained this information from the doctor of the prison, who is a Christian.

H. T. G.

Inclosure 3 in No. 164.

RETURN showing the Number of Persons undergoing Imprisonment in the Prisons of Salonica.

	Mahommedans.		Christians.		Jews.		Totals.			
	Condemned.	Awaiting Trial.	Condemned.	Awaiting Trial.	Condemned.	Awaiting Trial.	Condemned.	Awaiting Trial.	Grand Total.	Remarks.
Males ..	184	75	265	133	13	14	462	222	684	Tried before the Salonica civil and military Courts.
Females.	1	2	2	1	..	..	3	3	6	
	185	77	267	134	13	14	465	225	690	
Males ..	1	..	81	..	..	..	82	..	82	Tried before the military Courts of Kossova and Janina.
Females.	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	3	
	1	..	84	..	..	..	85	..	85	
Total	186	77	351	134	13	14	550	225	775	

The above prisoners are located as follows:—

In "Ak-Koulé," White Tower	447
In the "Zindan," near the Government offices	328
Total	775

Salonica, May 15, 1884.

No. 165.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 21.)

Salonica, June 14, 1884.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a translation of a despatch from the Ottoman Legation at Athens to the Foreign Office at Constantinople relative to the brigand chief, Nicko, who was concerned in the capture of the late Colonel Synge.

The above letter was unofficially communicated to me by the Vali of this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 165.

The Turkish Minister at Athens to Assim Pasha.

(Traduction.) *Le 7 (19) Mai*, 1884.

CONFORMÉMENT aux instructions contenues dans la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'écrire en date du 9 (21) Avril écoulé, au sujet du brigand Nico-Costi, je me suis empressé de faire auprès du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères les démarches nécessaires. Son Excellence le Ministre m'a répondu que les crimes dont ce brigand était accusé ayant été commis dans l'Empire, les Tribunaux Helléniques ont jugé qu'il n'y avait pas lieu à le poursuivre, mais que le Procureur-Général s'est empressé de l'accuser pour des crimes de brigandage commis dans les terres Helléniques. Que si toutefois la Cour statuant sur cette réclamation du Procureur-Général déciderait la mise en liberté du prévenu, le Ministère m'informerait du jour et lieu où le dit brigand sera exilé.

La Légation d'Angleterre, qui protège aussi cette affaire, a reçu la même promesse.

No. 166.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 2.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June 22, 1884.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch, with one inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Lord Dufferin, relative to the census of the population in the Vilayets of Salonica, Cossova, Monastir, and Janina, and to the bad state of affairs in Debra.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 166.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, June 22, 1884.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Turkish authorities are taking a census of the population in the Vilayets of Salonica, Cossova, Monastir, and Janina, and the Mutessariflik of Serfitché.

The census operations in the Vilayet of Salonica are progressing satisfactorily, and so far have aroused no opposition on the part of any section of the population, but they are strongly objected to by the Mahommedans of Ochrida, in the Vilayet of Monastir.

The inclosed extract from a letter of my Correspondent at Monastir furnishes some information on the subject, and also refers to the situation in Debra, where the Sultan's authority is very imperfectly felt by the Albanian section of the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 166.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Monastir.

(Extrait. *Le 17 Juin*, 1884.

Il y a quelques jours m'étant rendu à Ochrida j'ai assisté au déroulement d'un incident dont la solution se fait encore attendre, et qui consiste en le refus des habitants Musulmans de la dite ville à être recensé, alléguant pour justification le grand déshonneur qui leur serait fait dans le cas où le Gouvernement insisterait à vouloir connaître les noms et âges de leurs femmes et filles.

Notre Vali, Ahmet Eyoub Pacha, y dépêcha le Mutessarif de Monastir sur le champ, mais celui-ci aussi, comme le Caïmacan, échoua dans ses efforts, les habitants Musulmans ayant télégraphiés directement à la Sublime Porte, implorant sa clémence pour qu'un pareil déshonneur leur soit épargné. Malheureusement, le district d'Ochrida, à cause de son voisinage avec Debra, continue toujours à souffrir du caractère rapace des habitants de cette dernière contrée, qui de temps à autre descendent en bandes armées et emportent avec eux des troupeaux entiers de moutons, enlevés aux pauvres villageois Chrétiens.

Excellant spécialement dans leurs vexations, les habitants du Debra Inférieur, qui, jouissant d'une autonomie presque parfaite, et ne reconnaissant d'autre autorité que celle de leur compatriote nommé Soul Hoppi, très renommé pour ses actes de brigandage, descendent dans la contrée habitée par des Chrétiens, y rançonnent systématiquement ces derniers et parfois même la population Musulmane.

Debra Inférieur se compose de dix-sept villages, sis entre la Rivière de Drin et celle de Mati, et dans lesquels il n'y a pas une personne représentant le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et cela parce que toutes les fois que nos autorités ont voulu y en envoyer, les "Meïmours" (fonctionnaires) ont été accueillis à coup de fusil.

No. 167.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 15, 1884.*

I HAVE received from Consul-General Blunt a copy of his despatch to your Excellency of the 8th ultimo relative to the condition of the prisoners at Salonica, and I have to request your Excellency to urge the Turkish Government to recommend the Sultan to amnesty the political prisoners detained there, and also to abolish the Military Courts in the provinces of Salonica and Cossova.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 168.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 16.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1884.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I recently took an opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs the terrible state of things which prevails in Turkish Servia and North Albania, as described in Mr. Evans' Reports.

In reply to the serious representations which I made to his Excellency on the subject, Assim Pasha promised that he would communicate the information which I had supplied to the Minister of the Interior, and move his Highness to send categorical instructions to the Imperial authorities of Upper Albania, &c., to take energetic measures for the preservation of order and the prevention of crime in the district in question.

I also thought it my duty, in order that the matter might be duly kept before the eyes of the Ottoman Government, to furnish Assim Pasha with a *pro-memorid* containing a careful résumé of the facts embodied in Mr. Evans' Reports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 169.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 15, 1884.*

IN my despatch of the 28th ultimo respecting the Greek prisoners detained at Salonica, I reported to your Lordship that, after communicating on the subject

with the Greek Minister, I had made representations to the Sublime Porte as to the advisability of nominating a Mixed Commission to discriminate between the prisoners accused of political crimes and those condemned for ordinary offences.

In reply to my representations, Assim Pasha recently informed me that, in preference to the appointment of the Mixed Commission, as proposed by M. Coundouriotis, he had suggested to his Excellency that the Imperial provincial authorities should be called upon to furnish a general list of the prisoners, describing in each case the nature of their offences, and the sentences under which they are actually undergoing punishment.

In this manner, Assim Pasha observed, the Sublime Porte and the Greek Legation would be in a position to establish at once the distinction between ordinary criminals and political prisoners, and to deal with the latter category in accordance with the provisions of the amnesty already granted to offenders of that class.

Assim Pasha added that his Government was disposed to act as fairly as possible in the matter, but that it was unable to agree to the view taken of the question by the Greek Government, who contend that the Greek bands, which have for many years been in the habit of crossing the frontier into Turkish territory, under the guise of brigands, should now be treated as political offenders, on the ground that, although they perpetrated acts of brigandage, the real objects they had in view were of a political nature.

Such a view, Assim Pasha maintains, is untenable, and he argues that persons arrested and imprisoned under the Criminal Code, and in accordance with the understanding come to between Turkey and Greece, in 1855-56, for acts of brigandage committed on Turkish territory, cannot now be reasonably claimed and liberated as political offenders.

I am disposed to agree with Assim Pasha's opinion in this respect, but I will take an early opportunity of discussing the matter again with M. Coundouriotis, who, I am led to believe, is now inclined to adopt Assim Pasha's suggestion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 170.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 30.)

Therapia, July 25, 1884.

My Lord,

AS your Lordship is aware, for some time past I have been making very considerable exertions on behalf of certain individuals, inhabitants of Old Servia, now prisoners at Salonica, who were condemned by the court-martial at Cossova on the strength of certain accusations brought against them by a renegade spy of the name of Omar Effendi.

As the matter was within the competence of the Minister of War my first representations were addressed to Osman Pasha, but his Excellency persistently refused to move in the matter, on the ground that the persons in question had been regularly tried and condemned.

I then endeavoured to enlist the sympathies of the Russian Ambassador in the case, and his Excellency was good enough to instruct his Dragoman to act in concert with Sir Alfred Sandison, with the view of having the affair more favourably considered. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has now been good enough to call the attention of the Grand Vizier to the matter, and Saïd Pasha has instructed his Mustéchar to go carefully into the dossier, which is now being done.

I merely trouble your Lordship with a despatch on the foregoing subject, in order that you may be aware that I am not neglecting the instructions with which you have furnished me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 171.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13.)

Therapia, July 29, 1884.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship of the 25th instant respecting the inhabitants of Old Servia imprisoned at Salonica, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Minister of Foreign Affairs has addressed a note to the Grand Vizier, stating that, in his opinion, these individuals come under the term of political prisoners, and that they are consequently entitled to the general amnesty recently granted by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. The Grand Vizier has, in consequence, issued instructions that the list of the names of the prisoners furnished by this Embassy should be carefully compared with the list supplied by the Ministry of War, and steps to this effect are now being taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 172.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13.)

Constantinople, August 7, 1884.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Consul Lamb at Adrianople, reporting upon the capture of Mr. Dussi by brigands, and on the present inefficient state of the gendarmerie in the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(For the Earl of Dufferin),
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 172.

Acting Consul Lamb to the Earl of Dufferin.

Adrianople, August 2, 1884.

My Lord,

YOUR Excellency has doubtless been informed by Mr. Dussi, Consular Agent at Rodosto, of the circumstances attending the capture of his son by brigands, the news of which reached the central authority here on Wednesday night. On receipt of the intelligence the Governor-General immediately summoned the Military Commandant, who remained in consultation with his Excellency for several hours, during which time telegraphic instructions were dispatched to the civil and military authorities of Enos, Kesehan, Malgara, Gallipoli, Haireboli, Lule-Bourgas, and Tchorlou, with a view to drawing a cordon round the entire district into which the brigands are supposed to have withdrawn with their captive. At the same time, application was made to the arsenal for the dispatch of a steamer to watch the coast-line, and the Commandant of the provincial gendarmerie was directed to proceed at once to the spot to undertake the general direction of the various bodies of troops and gendarmes engaged in the pursuit.

The Vali informs me that no advance will be ordered at present, Mr. Dussi being naturally anxious, first of all, to secure the safety of his son; but he assures me that ample measures have been taken to preclude any possibility of the brigands escaping, and that as soon as young Dussi has been released prompt and vigorous action will be resorted to.

So far as can be judged, the provincial authorities are acting with energy and good-will now that the evil has become serious, and will do all in their power to lay their hands on these bandits and make an example of them.

But unfortunately, though the most daring, this is not the first act of brigandage which has occurred recently in the Vilayet of Adrianople, the coast districts, and especially that between Dédéagatch and the Macedonian frontier, having been unsafe for some time past.

The reason of this recrudescence of an evil which for two years had almost

entirely disappeared from the province is to be found in the gradual deterioration of the gendarmerie force, owing to the persistent opposition with which it has met since the recall of Reouf Pasha. The difficulties with which this force had to contend from the outset have been fully explained in successive despatches from this Consulate, but notwithstanding these difficulties, the efforts of the inspector, Colonel Blunt, were to a great extent successful, so long as they were supported by the sympathy and encouragement of Reouf Pasha; and the corps, though never sufficiently numerous for the requirements of the country, was well organized and energetically handled, and the men, though frequently over-worked, proved themselves equal to their duties, and worthy of the trust which the rural population quickly learned to repose in them.

This is proved by the letters of thanks which were addressed to Colonel Blunt by the Corps Consulaire, the Heads of the various religious communities, the Administrative Council of the Vilayet, and other representative bodies.

Subsequent Governors, however, have been rather inclined to side with the opposition, no doubt in accordance with private instructions from Stamboul, and this difference in their attitude could not fail to be remarked, and to be detrimental to the influence of Colonel Blunt. A serious blow was dealt to this influence two years ago, when a Turkish Lieutenant-Colonel was appointed to the command of the force, and Colonel Blunt was restricted to the exercise of the functions denoted by his title of Inspector, and, latterly, even that amount of power has been withdrawn from him by an order from the Seraskierate, forbidding him to leave the town of Adrianople.

Under these circumstances, exposed to the jealousy and active opposition of the judicial authorities and civil police, regarded with scarcely-veiled disfavour by the principal officials of the vilayet, and relieved of the constraint imposed by periodical visits from an Inspector, it is not to be wondered at if the gendarmerie is gradually sinking back into all the faults and vices of the old zaptieh system which it was instituted to replace.

In one district at least, the Sandjak of Gumuldjina, it would seem already to have attained that undesirable condition of corruption, and to have become an object of fear or of contempt to the people whose safeguard it is intended to be. It is unnecessary for me to dwell upon the importance of this question, which has been fully dealt with in despatches from this Consulate in 1880 and 1881.

I would merely beg to express my humble opinion that unless Colonel Blunt's position be speedily and effectually strengthened, and the prohibition from fulfilling his duties as Inspector removed, of which, in the absence of support from Her Majesty's Embassy, I fear there is no probability, the corruption and disorganization which are beginning to manifest themselves in the gendarmerie will rapidly extend, and the security and prosperity of the vilayet will thereby be seriously compromised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

No. 173.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 14.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 3, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 31st ultimo to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the state of affairs in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, in the Vilayet of Cossova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 173.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, July* 31, 1884.

AN exchange of posts having been authorized by the Sublime Porte between Abdul Kader Ali Pasha, Mutessarif of Novi-Bazar, in the Vilayet of Cossova, and Osman Pasha, Mutessarif of Gumuldjina, in the Vilayet of Adrianople, I have availed myself of the arrival here last week of the first of these functionaries, on his way to his new post, to renew acquaintance with him.

He gave me a very satisfactory account of the state of public security in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, which he has governed during the last three years, and more particularly referred to the good relations which subsist between the Turkish and Servian frontier authorities.

He assured me, and authorized me to report to your Lordship, that perfect accord now happily reigns between these authorities towards insuring tranquillity on the border; and spoke in terms of praise of the prompt and cheerful manner in which the "Natchalniks" (Servian Prefects) of the frontier districts acquiesced in the police measures which he recommended in the interest of both Governments.

He also praised the commanding officers of the Austro-Hungarian garrisons in Taslidza (Plevlje) and Priepolje for the correct attitude they maintain towards the Turkish civil and military authorities in those districts, and for the strict attention they pay to the discipline of their troops.

He gave me the following instance in proof of the decided manner in which these troops are kept in order:—

About four months ago two Croatian soldiers were tried by general court-martial, and condemned to be shot, for pillaging a shop in the town of Taslidza, after severely wounding its proprietor.

This sentence was confirmed by the War Office at Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 174.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 14.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 3, 1884.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 22nd June last, I have the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Lord Dufferin, furnishing particulars derived from a private source relative to the disorders which have been caused by the census operations in the town and district of Ochrida, in the Vilayet of Monastir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 174.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 3, 1884.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 31st ultimo, reporting that private information had been received here stating that the taking of the census of the population of the town and district of Ochrida has caused disturbances on the part of the Mahommedans, and that three battalions of infantry have in consequence been sent there from Monastir, I have the honour to further report to your Lordship that it would seem from the contents of a recent letter which has been received from Monastir by an official here that the imprisonment at Ochrida, about ten days ago, of some Mahommedans who took a leading part in the agitation against the census operations so irritated their co-religionists, that the latter assembled in large numbers and attempted to forcibly deliver the prisoners.

They were, however, beaten off by the police, assisted by the few troops in

garrison there; and the Kaïmakam, apprehending further violence, caused the prisoners to be removed next day to Monastir.

The disaffected Mahommedans reassembled, and, assisted by armed peasants from the surrounding villages, made a further but fruitless attempt to rescue the prisoners.

They next took up a position in the hills above the town, from where they sent abusive and menacing messages to the authorities.

The letter which furnishes the above particulars also confirms the dispatch of troops to the spot to re-establish order.

I hope soon to get fuller and more trustworthy details on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 175.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 25.*)

Salonica, August 9, 1884.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a letter which I have received from my correspondent at Uscup relative to the state of affairs in that sandjak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 175.

Extract from a Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Uscup.

August 2, 1884.

THE Kaïmakam of Katchanik has become a victim of Albanian vendetta. A "Mouhadjir," he was disliked by all the inhabitants (Albanian), and this because he was an honest and energetic man, indeed the best Kaïmakam Katchanik ever had. It was he who caught and killed the notorious Hafim Raka, eleven times assassin.

Salih Effendi, the Kaïmakam, was attacked from behind, at 9 o'clock at night, as he was leaving his house to go to the mosque for Ramazan prayers; he received eight yataghan blows, of which two on the head, one of his fingers being clean cut off. He was rescued by a Turkish woman, who, hearing his cry for help, boldly opened her door and took him in her house. He was fainting from loss of blood. As soon as the news reached Uscup, by special courier at night, the Chief of Police dispatched twenty mounted men, and started himself by train next morning with twenty more policemen. On reaching Katchanik he put the whole Albanian population under arrest until the murderers were delivered up to him. He also arrested the members of the Medjliss, as well as the old Sheikh Islam. In consequence of these extraordinary measures the chief abettor of the crime was immediately denounced, and with the help of the people another culprit was caught and recognized by the Kaïmakam. Salih Effendi is getting on well, and will, it is said, recover from his severe wounds.

I was at the station when he arrived. It was an awful scene. About fifty of the inhabitants arrived with him under arrest.

Faïk Pasha, the Mutessarif of Uscup, has shown wonderful tact in the whole affair. He is very much liked in the place. He takes great interest in all public works. Many miles of road have been constructed since his arrival here, and a new bridge joins the two banks of the Vardar a little below the old one, and at a place where we shall soon see a new town spring up. All available troops having been sent to join the corps d'armée under Mustapha Assim Pasha at Berana, there are very few in the Vilayet of Cossova. Mustapha Assim Pasha was at Yeni-Bazar a few day ago. It is reported that the Montenegrin frontier question is being quietly settled by this Pasha.

About a month ago a band of fifteen Bulgarian brigands crossed the frontier, and advanced to the environs of Stroumnitza, but they were pursued and attacked by some soldiers and police, and in the encounter the Bulgarians lost five of their number. The remainder crossed over again and disappeared.

Brigandage now only exists in the vicinity of the border.

No. 176.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 25.*)

Salonica, August 9, 1884.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch, with one inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the success achieved by his Excellency the Governor-General Ghalib Pasha in the administration of the Vilayet of Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 176.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

Salonica, August 9, 1884.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant relative to the abduction of the Christian girl of the village of Lukovitza, in the district of Vodina, and to the prompt and effective measures taken by his Excellency Ghalib Pasha to secure her safe return to her parents, I would bring to the notice of your Lordship the courteous manner in which his Excellency attends to the suggestions I may have occasion to make to him in any matter concerning the provincial administration. His action in the case I have referred to shows how liberal-minded and tolerant he is. Ever since Ghalib Pasha* has taken charge of the administration of this important vilayet he has done his best to promote and encourage a friendly feeling between the different races, and in particular between the Mahommedan and Christian; and I gladly bear testimony to the success of his efforts in that direction. For instance, during the whole period of the Greek Easter feasts and the Ramazan and Bairam festivals, which were celebrated in the midst of the most perfect tranquillity, it was a subject of general remark that Greeks, Jews, and Turks freely and frequently associated together in the bazaars and various other places of public resort, a state of things which was rare in this place before his appointment.

My various reports on the general state of affairs in the Vilayet of Salonica also show the attention his Excellency has given to the promotion of public works and to the suppression of brigandage. It is a significant fact that this province is not now disgraced with that long catalogue of acts of brigandage and atrocious outrages which were perpetrated with impunity since the Russo-Turkish war, and within the first few months of Ghalib Pasha's arrival.

Thanks to the efficient and vigorous measures adopted by his Excellency, in concert with the Military Commander, Hassan Pasha, comparative order and security now prevail in this vilayet. These measures have been so far successful as to have resulted, according to the inclosed Return, in the capture, destruction, &c., of 194 brigands during the year ended March 1884. All the districts in the south of Macedonia, chiefly Vodina, Yenidge, Niausta, Veria, Catterina, and Cassandra, which were a constant prey to brigandage, are now safe; and although in the early part of this year a few solitary attempts were made to revive the evil, they were promptly and effectually suppressed.

Colonel Kemal Bey, Commandant of Catterina and Veria, has especially distinguished himself by his successful activity in restoring order in those districts.

As I had occasion to report to your Lordship in previous despatches, this improved state of things in some of the above-named districts is also in some measure due to the efficient co-operation of the Greek frontier authorities. If the

* Ghalib Pasha arrived at Salonica and entered on his duties as Vali of the vilayet on the 23rd February, 1882.

Bulgarian frontier authorities were equally well-disposed, the northern districts of Macedonia near that border would also, in time, enjoy the same immunity as the southern districts. Ghalib Pasha also takes great interest in promoting the welfare of the population by encouraging the development of public instruction in his province.

Several new Turkish schools have been opened within the last two years in this and other towns in the vilayet, and the Pasha is now taking steps to establish an agricultural and commercial college.

I should not omit to refer to the loyal manner in which Ghalib Pasha carries out the conditions of the Anglo-Turkish Convention of 1880 for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, and to the ready attention he always gives to the representations of this Consulate-General in all matters in which British interests are concerned.

My foreign colleagues here are on very good terms with his Excellency, so much so, that the Greek and Roumanian Governments and the Pope have honoured him with their decorations. Were it the custom of Her Majesty's Government to show their appreciation of a Pasha's friendliness to British interests, and honourable and upright administration in a similar way, I should not hesitate to venture upon recommending Ghalib Pasha as in every way worthy of Her Majesty's favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 176.

TABLE showing the Numbers of Brigands who have been destroyed or captured in the Vilayet of Salonica during the Year ended the 31st March, 1884; including the Brigands who have surrendered or escaped to Greece.

Brigands.	Chiefs.	Men.	Total.
Killed	14	80	94
Captured alive	4	47	51
Surrendered	2	29	31
Escaped to Greece	8*	15	18
Totals	28	171	194

No. 177.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

Constantinople, August 17, 1884.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Adrianople, reporting the release of Mr. Richard Dussi, owing to the energetic and efficient measures adopted by the Turkish authorities.

I have desired Mr. Lamb to take an occasion to compliment the Governor-General, in my name, on the successful termination of this affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 177.

Acting Consul Lamb to the Earl of Dufferin.

Adrianople, August 13, 1884.

My Lord,

I HAVE much pleasure in reporting to your Excellency the release of Mr. Dussi's son from the hands of the brigands, which was effected last evening;

* Including the notorious Nicko, who captured Colonel Synge.

without payment even of the reduced ransom of £ T. 1,000, which they had on the previous day expressed themselves willing to accept, thanks to the efficacy of the measures taken by the authorities of the vilayet.

Upwards of 3,000 men having been concentrated from different points, a triple cordon was established round the hills in which the brigands had taken up their quarters, and so effective a watch was maintained on their movements that they were unable even to obtain the necessary supplies of food.

Convinced of the impossibility of escape, one of their number offered, on the promise of a free pardon, to enable the captive to escape. This he succeeded in doing yesterday evening, profiting by a slight encounter which took place between his band and some soldiers forming part of the inner cordon. Orders were thereupon immediately given for an energetic pursuit of the rest of the band, with, I venture to hope, every prospect of success.

I have much pleasure in bearing witness to the good-will exhibited in this instance by his Excellency the Governor-General of the province. His Excellency and the Military Commandant have worked together throughout in complete accord, sparing themselves no trouble, and affording to the officers in command of the military and gendarmerie forces on the spot every facility for the execution of their task, with the successful issue of which they express themselves in the highest degree gratified.

His Excellency the Vali praises especially the energy and tact shown by Major-General Mehemet Pasha, who was sent from here in command of the cavalry force employed, and to whose efforts the happy termination of the affair is in great measure due.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

No. 178.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

Salonica, August 17, 1884.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Lord Dufferin relative to the efficient co-operation of the Greek Government towards the suppression of brigandage in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 178.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

Salonica, August 16, 1884.

My Lord,

IN my Report of the 9th instant on the improved state of affairs in the Vilayet of Salonica, I adverted to the efficient co-operation which is given by the Greek Government to the Turkish authorities towards insuring tranquillity in the southern districts of Macedonia.

I have now the satisfaction to further report in this connection that the Greek Consul-General at Salonica, acting on information and instructions he received from his Government, has caused to be apprehended and sent to Greece on Wednesday last, the 13th instant, three emissaries, who had recently arrived here from Athens for the purpose of organizing brigand bands in the districts contiguous to the Bulgarian border. The names of these emissaries are Missio, Cota, and Kara-Giorgios; they are natives of Greece, and had served in the Greek army and taken part in insurrectionary movements in Thessaly before its cession to Greece. It also appears that these individuals were sent to Macedonia from Athens by Leonidas Bulgaris, who is known to have always taken a leading part in creating agitation and disturbances in the European provinces of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 179.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 17, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received a letter from my correspondent at Monastir confirming the information I furnished in my despatch of the 3rd instant relative to the recent disturbances at Ochrida, and stating that order has been re-established in that place, and the opposition of the Mahommedans to the census operations subdued by the prompt and energetic action of Ahmet Eyoub Pasha, the Vali and Commander-in-chief of the Vilayet of Monastir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 180.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 2, 1884.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 17th instant, in which you inclose a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Adrianople, reporting the release of Mr. Dussi's son from the hands of the brigands who had captured him, and I have to request you to express to the Porte the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the prompt and energetic action of the Turkish authorities in this matter, and of the successful result of their efforts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 181.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 4, 1884.

HER Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica has forwarded to me a copy of his despatch to your Excellency of the 9th ultimo, in which he speaks in high terms of the manner in which Ghalib Pasha has carried on the administration of the vilayet, and of its consequent condition of tranquillity and prosperity.

I have to request you to express to the Porte the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government has received this information, if you are of opinion that your doing so will be of advantage to Ghalib Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 182.

Mr. R. J. Kennedy to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord, *Sophia, August* 20, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship the following observations upon the financial state of Bulgaria.

According to the budgets published by the Government, the revenue of the Principality since the date of its creation up to the present year is as follows:—

REVENUE.

	Francs.		£	s.
1878–79	20,549,753			
1879–80	23,114,500			
1880–81	23,114,500			
1881–82	26,154,280			
1882–83	30,568,280			
1883–84	33,191,300			
Total for six years..	156,692,613	=	6,267,704	10

The acknowledged revenue of Bulgaria averages, therefore, about 1,045,000*l.* a-year.

The expenditure during the same period is declared to be as follows:—

EXPENDITURE.

	Francs.		£
1878–79	24,285,609		
1879–80	27,306,267		
1880–81	27,306,267		
1881–82	29,000,517		
1882–83	31,502,427		
1883–84	34,722,423		
Total for six years	174,123,600	=	6,964,944

Representing an average annual disbursement of about 1,161,000*l.*

According to these official figures a deficit exists of 17,430,987 fr., or 697,240*l.*, but no reliance whatever can be placed upon these official budgets—that for the year 1881-82, for example, being simply a republication of the previous year's accounts. They have been framed for the purpose of making Bulgaria appear to be in a state of great poverty, in order that she may to some extent, at any rate, evade the pecuniary obligations imposed upon her by the Treaty of Berlin. Not only is there no deficit in the State Treasury, but there is actually at this moment a surplus of some 22,000,000 fr., out of which a loan of 1,000,000 fr. has already been made, at 6 per cent., to the Government of Eastern Roumelia, and another of the same amount is in process of negotiation.

This surplus is formed by the sum of 14,726,100 fr., which was encashed by the State in 1878-79, over and above the actual revenue, and which represents the value of all the agricultural produce of the Mussulman land-owners who fled the country during the war, as well as by an average yearly increase in the revenue of nearly 2,000,000 fr., which is concealed by the Government, but which I am informed, on the authority of its late financial adviser, a Frenchman, to be an actual fact.

The sums spent upon the army represent nearly one-half of the revenue of the State. The military expenditure for the last five years is as follows:—

	Francs.
1879–80	16,213,364
1880–81	11,250,600
1881–82	12,927,199
1882–83	12,345,260
1883–84	11,000,000

The reduction in the last Military Budget was affected by the Chamber in opposition to the wishes of the Acting Minister of War, and of the Prince himself (see Mr. Lascelles' despatch of the 10th January).

Another heavy item in the expenditure of the Principality which deserves attention is that included under the heads of "Bulgarian Exarchate" and "Extraordinary Expenses of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of Public Worship." In the year 1878-79 these amounted altogether to 48,000 fr., but they have gone on steadily increasing until they have reached last year the following sums:—

	Francs.		£
Bulgarian Exarchate at Constantinople	98,000		
Extraordinary expenses of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of Public Worship	684,845		
Bulgarian Agency at Constantinople	71,326		
Maintenance of a Bulgarian Church at Constantinople	20,000		
Total	874,171	=	30,966

This large annual disbursement is made, I am informed, for the purpose of maintaining in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Eastern Roumelia, and the country round Constantinople a Slav, as opposed to a Greek religious, educational, and national propaganda.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. J. KENNEDY.

No. 183.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 10.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 2, 1881.*

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 15th July last, I again called the attention of the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs to the condition of the Greek political prisoners detained at Salonica and Constantinople, and urged his Excellency to recommend their amnesty to His Majesty the Sultan.

In reply, his Excellency stated that orders had been just issued to the Minister of Police, to the Vali of Salonica, and to the other authorities concerned, to furnish the Sublime Porte without delay with a complete list of all the prisoners in question. This list, his Excellency said, was to contain their names, the crimes for which they had been condemned, together with all other details necessary to enable the Sublime Porte to make the required distinction between political prisoners and those convicted of ordinary offences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 184.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received September 16.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 12, 1881.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 20th ultimo, inclosing copies of Earl Dufferin's despatches of the 25th and 29th July respectively, referring to certain persons from Old Servia now imprisoned at Salonica, and the efforts which are being made by his Lordship for their release.

I take the liberty of suggesting that should those efforts happily prove successful, it may be well then to remind the Porte that, as far as is known, many of those whom we believe to have been unjustly condemned were long since removed from Salonica to Acre or other fortresses in Asia Minor, and to extend to these unfortunates the good offices which have hitherto been specially employed for the prisoners at Salonica.

I have no means of knowing the names or even the approximate number of the men transported. Professor George S. Kampérélitch, the prisoner who escaped on his way to Acre (as reported in my despatch of the 18th April last), was sent there singly in a small vessel under the charge of a Turkish gendarme, owing to which circumstance he managed to evade his fate. His term of condemnation was for ten years; but he gives a list of several others (only a small portion out of the great number arrested and condemned) who were known to him in prison, and were condemned for terms of many years, or even for life. It is, therefore, to be inferred that many, if not the majority, of these have been already transported to Asia.

These men call for every effort on the part of Christian Governments that can be made to save them. Their fate is worse than that of the great majority of those who perished in the massacres in Bulgaria. If not released, gaol fever or some other disease will put its lingering end to their misery before the time of their sentence can expire. We know that many must already have so disappeared. And yet some of these men have been convicted on the simple word of a renegade spy, some on evidence elicited by torture, and some are probably wholly innocent of any crime worse than discontent.

I subjoin the few names which are mentioned in the account of Professor George S. Kampérélitch, of which I had the honour to transmit a translation to your Lordship in my above-named despatch; I have marked with a "B" the names which were reported by Mr. Vice-Consul Baker in 1881, and must already be in the hands of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

List of the Prisoners personally known to and remembered by the escaped Convict, George S. Kampérélitch:—

(B.) Grégoire Dimitrievitch, native of Chipé-novo-selo, schoolmaster of Rudovitch—
After being tortured, and refusing to denounce any one, remained in prison at Prishtina.
Prota Dianché, native of Youtchitrn—
Sentenced to hard labour for life.

(B.) Joseph Stonditch, native of Youtchitrn, schoolmaster of Ghiliane—
Sentenced to eight years' hard labour.
H. Tasen, native of Youtchitrn, merchant, of Ghiliane—
Sentenced to five (or ten) years' hard labour.
Manassé H. Stoikovitch, native of Youtchitrn, merchant, of Ghiliane—
Sentenced to five (or ten) years' hard labour.
(B.) Jovan Denitch, native of Youtchitrn, merchant, of Ghiliane—
Sentenced to eight years' hard labour.
Liza N———, native of Youtchitrn, innkeeper, of Ghiliane—
Sentenced to six years' hard labour.
Denko Krstitch, merchant, of Koumanovo—
Died in prison at Prishtina of typhoid fever.
Dimitri Pandilovich, innkeeper, of Koumanovo—
Sentenced to hard labour for fifteen years.
Michail Popovitch, schoolmaster, of Koumanovo—
Sentenced to five years' hard labour.
Tzvétan, native of Vrania, parish priest of the district of Prechovo—
Sentenced to ten years' hard labour.
Spassvigé Popovitch, native of Vrania, parish priest of the district of Prechovo—
Sentenced to fifteen years' hard labour.
Trnko ———, peasant, of the district of Prechovo—
Sentenced to eight years' hard labour.
Ongrin ———, innkeeper, of Uscub—
Sentenced to eight years' hard labour.
Prota Athanase, native of Stipe or Schtip—
Sentenced to ten years' hard labour.
Rigino ———, mason, of Kitchévo—
Sentenced to seven years' hard labour.
(B.) Stévan X. Arsitch, tanner, of Prishtina—
Sentenced to eight years' hard labour.
Stévan Youtchitch, innkeeper, of Prishtina—
Died in irons in prison at Prishtina of typhoid fever.
Nedelko (Dela) Rochkomanovitch, merchant, of Prishtina—
Sentenced to five years' hard labour.
Assentié Diordievitch (or Georgevitch), coffeehouse-keeper, of Prishtina—
Sentenced to eight years of hard labour.

The above, except those who died, were sent from Prishtina to Salonica on the 22nd June, 1882, and placed in irons in the Kauli-Koulé Prison. Jovan Denitch was subsequently conveyed to Constantinople.

Unjudged down to 30th September, 1882—
Pierre Dimitriéviteh, coachman, of Koumanova.
Zéphyr ———, coachman, of Kitchevo.
Joseph Popovitch, philologian, of Plevlié.

If the written account given by Professor George Kampérélitch to the Servian Minister of Foreign Affairs is true (and it bears internal evidence of a careful exactitude), several of these men have been punished for acts committed, or stated to have been committed, in the last war. One is suffering for having engaged in political correspondence with his own brother; a priest has been condemned to fifteen years' hard labour for having visited every day his wife and his parents living just across the frontier, and given them news from Turkey. Another—the one who died in irons of typhoid fever—was accused of having visited Nisch in 1880 and talked politics with General Lechianine, then the Commandant of that town; while another, for having sold certain antiquities to the Servian National Museum, was condemned to eight years' hard labour.

As I have already said, the above are the names of the few whom Mr. Kampérélitch, having become more or less intimate with, happens to have remembered. There were many more of whom he does not particularly speak, and he mentions having heard from some Turkish prisoners, who followed him later to the prison at Salonica, that after he had left Prishtina the spy, Omer Effendi, had imprisoned 200 more persons of the Vilayet of Kossova, and that he was then about to visit the Vilayets of Salonica and Monastir on his errand of denouncement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 185.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 24.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 10, 1884.*

IN my despatch of the 2nd July last I had the honour to report to your Lordship that I had furnished the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs with a *pro-memorial*, containing a careful summary of the facts embodied in Mr. Evans' Reports upon the condition of North Albania.

I have now ascertained that the *pro-memorial* was translated and forwarded to the Minister of the Interior on the 9th ultimo, and that his Excellency has already entered into communication with the Vali of Cossova upon the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 186.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 6.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September 27, 1884.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my despatch of this date to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, relative to false and sensational rumours which are circulated by designing parties on the state of affairs in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 186.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Salonica, September 27, 1884.*

I REGRET having to report that false and sensational rumours on the state of affairs in Macedonia are being circulated by designing parties, with the object of keeping up a feeling of alarm and distrust among the inhabitants, and misleading public opinion in Europe.

Reuter's Agency is one of the channels through which these rumours find room in English as well as in foreign newspapers.

For instance, the "Standard," in its issue of the 6th instant, published the following telegram from Sophia:—

"We have received the following through Reuter's Agency:—

"'*Brigandage in Macedonia.*

"'*Sophia, September 5.*

"'Intelligence received here states that bands of brigands are overrunning the districts of Kiuprulu and Prilip in Macedonia, and forcibly collecting the taxes from the inhabitants, at the same time defying the authority of the Sultan. It is added that forty-five persons have been massacred by the brigands.'"

Now, the Reverend J. W. Baird, an American Protestant missionary, established at Monastir since 1873, and who frequently visits Prilip and Kiuprulu, assures me that the above alleged occurrences are false. I inclose a copy of his letter, in which he also bears testimony to the general improvement which has resulted from Ahmet Eyoub Pasha's administration of the Vilayet of Monastir.

The state of public security has sensibly improved within the last year in the southern districts of Macedonia; brigandage no longer exists there on an organized footing, and it is a noteworthy fact that the districts of Cassandra, Catterina, and Karaferia, which were formerly overrun by brigands, have been disturbed in the course of the whole of this summer by only one act of serious lawlessness.

It is chiefly in the districts near the Bulgarian and East Roumelian borders that brigands, as I recently had the honour to report to Lord Dufferin, continue to molest the inhabitants, and cannot be extirpated, owing to the relaxation they enjoy in those provinces when hard pressed by the Ottoman troops.

On the whole, the authorities of the Vilayets of Salonica and Monastir appear to be doing their utmost to preserve order in their respective districts.

I very much regret, however, that I am unable to report any improvement in the state of affairs in Upper Albania. Murders, robberies, and other serious outrages frequently occur in Dibra, Prisrend, Jacova, and Ipek, and, from all I hear, the means at the disposal of the local authorities are inadequate to insure the maintenance of public tranquillity.

Not long ago the commercial agent of Mr. Hassid, the Third Dragoman of this Consulate-General, while crossing the Shar Dag (Mount Scardus) on his way from Prisrend to Useup, was attacked by a band of Albanian brigands, and robbed of 500*l.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 186.

The Rev. J. W. Baird to Consul-General Blunt.

My dear Sir, *Salonica, September 24, 1884.*

I HEREWITH return you the paragraph from the "Standard" of the 6th September, 1884, entitled "Brigandage in Macedonia."

I know it to be false; as you are aware, I have been in Perlepé since the date of the telegram, and have seen men from Kinprulu and vicinity.

I have asked them about the state of the country, and particularly about robbers and brigands, but have heard nothing approaching the statements made in the telegram.

Occasionally one hears of a murder or a robbery like that of the Bulgarian students, but these are rarer this year than any other year since the Servo-Turkish War.

Early in 1884 the soldiers succeeded in killing several old brigands, so that this summer these pests have been unusually scarce and shy.

This summer I have heard of only one brigand band in the regions referred to, but have heard of their doing nothing more than killing a soldier and wounding a soldier and a villager when pursued by the troops. In more things than one there is improvement in the region of Monastir.

Our excellent Governor-General, Ahmet Eyoub Pasha, is very earnest and persistent in building good roads. This road-making is rather onerous to the poor villagers, but necessary for developing the resources of the country.

On the whole, the labour and money seem to be wisely expended. A new building for Government offices will soon be finished.

Never in the eleven years of my residence there has so much been done towards repairing streets, building sewers, &c., as this year.

Schools of all nationalities are growing in numbers and efficiency. While much remains to be done, one can but rejoice in seeing that there is not a little of real progress.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. W. BAIRD.

No. 187.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 1, 1884.*

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch to me of the 27th ultimo, copy of which he has sent to your Lordship, I have informed him that I shall await his Report as to the result of his proposed communication to Ghalib Pasha on the condition of the Sandjak of Drama before taking any steps to bring it

to the notice of the Porte, as his Excellency has always shown himself most anxious to improve the state of affairs in his vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 188.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 1, 1884.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 4th September, in which you instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador to express to the Porte the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government has heard of the manner in which Ghalib Pasha administers the Vilayet of Salonica, should his Excellency be of opinion that his doing so will be of advantage to the Vali in question.

I venture, in reply, to express the opinion that it might be of disadvantage to Ghalib Pasha to express the appreciation of Her Majesty's Government of his conduct to the Porte, as the motive for doing so might be misinterpreted; but I will endeavour to convey it to his Excellency in a private manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 189.

Mr. Currie to Baron Reuter.

MR. PHILIP CURRIE presents his compliments to Baron Reuter, and, by Lord Granville's direction, transmits, for Baron Reuter's confidential information, the substance of a despatch from Mr. Blunt, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, relative to a telegram from Reuter's agency which appeared in the "Standard."

He remarks that unfounded reports of this nature tend to keep up a feeling of alarm and distrust amongst the inhabitants of Macedonia, besides misleading public opinion in Europe.

Foreign Office, October 10, 1884.

No. 190.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October 2, 1884.*

I HAVE heard from a private and generally well-informed source that there is at present a very active telegraphic correspondence, in cypher, between the Porte and the military authorities at Salonica, Monastir, Cossova, and Prisrend with respect to the state of affairs in Upper Albania.

It appears that the Albanians of the town and district of Prisrend are determined to oppose the census operations, and have made, by telegraph, the following demands on the Porte:—

1. Immediate recall of the Mutessarif of Prisrend.
2. Pardon of Albanian Notables exiled by Dervish Pasha in 1881.
3. Discontinuance of the census.
4. Remission of extra tithe leviable for educational purposes.

The Porte has granted the first of these demands, and is trying to temporize with respect to the others.

My informant further states that the Albanians of Dibra, Ipek, and Jacova are also beginning to agitate against the census and extra tithe; and that Ahmet Eyoub Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the Third Army Corps, has urged the Porte to dispatch reinforcements to North Albania.

I have telegraphed the substance of the above information to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 191.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 15.)

My Lord, *Scutari, October 1, 1884.*

BY my despatch of the 31st August last I had the honour to warn your Lordship of the little credence which ought to be placed on the rumours which had commenced to be circulated of a rekindling of the Albanian League.

These rumours have now, with equally small foundation in truth, been developed into detailed reports "of anarchy prevailing from Scutari to Prisrend, of murders in the streets, barrack mutinies, and depradations by bands of troopers who are nominally Turkish soldiers, but who go out marauding when, as too often happens, the Pashas cannot or will not give them any pay."

The above-quoted words are from a leading article in the "Times," based on information as to the state of Albania derived from its correspondent at Constantinople. The rumours of the unsettled condition of this country have thus their origin in the Turkish capital. I am therefore still disposed to infer that though the commentaries made by the newspaper correspondent are little favourable to Turkish troops and Pashas, the rumours of disorder have been circulated from official quarters with the object perhaps of covering a further augmentation of the military force in the Kossova Vilayet.

In the Scutari Vilayet, setting aside the usual average of incidents arising out of blood feuds, perfect quiet prevails, and the same information reaches me as to the districts of Jacova, Ipek, and Prisrend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 192.

Baron Reuter to Mr. Currie.—(Received October 16.)

Reuter's Telegram Company (Limited), 42, Old Jewry, London, October 14, 1884.

My dear Mr. Currie,

IN reply to your letter of the 11th instant, in reference to the telegram reporting the recrudescence of brigandage in Macedonia, I greatly regret to learn that the message sent from Sophia on the 5th ultimo exaggerated the state of things, and has caused uneasiness in Salonica and elsewhere. Permit me, however, to inform you that already, on Friday last, the papers published a telegram, dated Constantinople, the 8th instant, communicated by us, attenuating the intelligence previously received from Sophia, and it is to be hoped that this message will suffice to allay any apprehension that may have been experienced.

On the other hand, in justice to the Company's agent at Sophia, I would point out that he is in a favourable position for ascertaining news of this character, and that although this despatch may have unduly magnified the events in question, the terms of Mr. Baird's Report conspire to prove that the existence of brigandage in Macedonia is not yet a thing of the past, and that, although no longer organized, it occasionally manifests itself in desultory acts of lawlessness.

Under such circumstances, it is no easy matter to obtain trustworthy intelligence, or to guard against exaggerations of actual occurrences. Nevertheless, a letter has been written to the agent at Sophia, explaining the uneasiness to which his telegram has given rise, and requesting him to use the utmost precaution in future.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) JULIUS REUTER.

No. 193.

Earl Granville to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 15, 1884.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 27th ultimo, I inclose copy of a letter which appeared in the "St. James' Gazette" of the 9th instant relative to the state of affairs in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 194.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received October 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 9, 1884.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch to me of the 27th September, copy of which was sent to your Lordship, I have the honour to inform you that I have brought to the notice of Assim Pasha, the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, the state of insecurity and lawlessness now prevailing in North Albania, as reported by Mr. Blunt.

His Excellency stated, in reply, that he will take an early opportunity of bringing this complaint to the knowledge of the Minister of the Interior.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 195.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 16, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople relative to the unfavourable comments which have recently appeared in the newspaper "Eastern Express" on the administration of Ghalib Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 195.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Salonica, October* 16, 1884.

THE unfavourable comments which have been published in some recent numbers of the "Eastern Express" on Ghalib Pasha's administration of the Vilayet of Salonica have produced a sense of surprise and indignation among all classes of the inhabitants of this place.

Some of the most prominent members of the Turkish, Greek, and Jewish communities and leading foreign merchants have addressed a telegram to the Grand Vizier and other Ministers at the Porte, in which, after testifying to the state of public security in this vilayet, they express their regret at the false reports which have been circulated by the newspapers published at Constantinople.

I inclose a translated copy of the telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 195.

Telegraphic Despatch addressed to the Grand Vizier, and to the Ministries for Foreign Affairs, of the Interior, and of War.

(Traduction.) *Salonique, le* 13 *Octobre,* 1884.

LA situation difficile dans laquelle se trouvait notre vilayet deux années auparavant par suite des actes de brigandage, est disparue, grâce aux diligences et efforts de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général Ghalib Pacha, et à l'empressement que le Commandant Hassan Pacha a toujours mis à l'exécution des ordres supérieurs.

Aussi, sous les auspices de Sa Majesté Impériale cette année la population et tous les habitants jouissent de la sûreté publique, vaquent librement à leurs affaires et prient toujours pour le bonheur de Sa Majesté.

C'est donc avec grand regret que nous avons relevé que quelques journaux de Constantinople, prêtant foi à des machinations de quelques personnes malveillantes, ont publiés des nouvelles tout à fait fausses, en prétendant que la Macédoine continue à être infectée par le brigandage, et que le public ne jouit pas de la tranquillité.

En conséquence de ce qui précède nous prenons la liberté de donner un démenti formel à ces insertions et à assurer qu'elles sont contraires à la vérité.

No. 196.

Baron Reuter to Mr. Currie.—(Received October 28.)

Reuter's Telegram Company (Limited), 24, Old Jewry, London, October 27, 1884.

Dear Mr. Currie,

REFERRING to your recent letter respecting our telegram reporting an outbreak of brigandage in Macedonia, permit me to send you copy of a telegram we have just received from our Sophia agent, to whom I had written for an explanation. You will observe that the message in question fully confirms the accuracy of the intelligence he sent us.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) JULIUS REUTER.

Inclosure in No. 196.

Telegram from Reuter's Agent at Sophia.

Sophia, le 26 *Octobre,* 1884.

UNE dépêche que je reçois par bureau télégraphique Useoup, Macédoine, confirme villages Nejilora et Orreche, de chacun cinquante maisons district Kiupruli, Macédoine, furent pillés incendiés par bande Albanaise. Plusieurs personnes massacrées.

No. 197.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 29.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 15, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, with reference to the recent seditious movement in Prisrend, that the Mutessarif and the Military Pasha of that province have been dismissed, and replaced by Ibrahim Pasha, a son of Namik Pasha, with the double capacity of Civil and Military Governor. I am also credibly informed that the Porte, agreeably to the request of the Albanians, has discontinued the census operations in their country, and promised to recommend to the favourable consideration of the Sultan their demands for the remission of the educational tax and pardon of certain Notables who were exiled by Dervish Pasha.

It seems that these concessions have satisfied, for the present at least, the seditious and restive party at Prisrend, for some 5,000 armed Albanians who had been collected there from the neighbouring villages have dispersed, and quietly returned to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 198.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1884.

I APPROVE the language held by you to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the lawlessness now prevailing in North Albania, as reported in your despatch of the 9th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 199.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 5.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 23, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a Report which I have this day addressed to Mr. Wyndham on the subject of a very serious raid that has been recently perpetrated by a large band of Albanian marauders from Dibra on Papradishta, a Bulgarian village in the district of Kiuprulu, in the Vilayet of Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 199.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Salonica, October* 23, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the information which I have received, and the substance of which I telegraphed to you on the 21st instant, relative to the serious raid which has been recently perpetrated by a large band of Albanians from Dibra on Papradishta, a Bulgarian village in the district of Kiuprulu. The Valis of Monastir and Salonica and the Mutessarif of Uscup have dispatched a strong force in pursuit of the marauders, but it is feared, as I reported in my telegram, that the disinclination of the Sultan to adopt a firm and decisive policy against his Albanian subjects just at present will discourage the provincial authorities from following up this case in an energetic manner.

It is a significant fact that this outrage was perpetrated two or three days after the late Albanian mob at Prisrend had dispersed.

Ghalib Pasha, in the course of a conversation I had with him yesterday morning, confirmed the account I have furnished of this occurrence, and mentioned another Bulgarian village, Oreshé, in the vicinity of Papradishta, as having been also pillaged by the same band of marauders. His Excellency, moreover, told me that, according to a recent report of the Kaïmakams of Kiuprulu and Perlepé, there is some reason to suspect that the raid was instigated by some Bulgarian villages in the same district which are still attached to the Greek Church, in order to wreak their vengeance on the inhabitants of Papradishta and Oreshé for having joined the Bulgarian Exarchate. I doubt the truth of this statement of the Kaïmakams, and am inclined to think that it has been made with a view of attenuating the responsibility of the Government in the matter. But be this as it may, it is not the first time that the Bulgarians accuse the Greek party of being the cause of some of their grievances. The murder in Dibra, about two months

ago, of a Bulgarian priest who had been sent by the Exarch to attend to the spiritual wants of the Bulgarians in that district, is imputed to Greek intrigues. Even the Greek Archbishop of Dibra is suspected by the Bulgarians of having encouraged these alleged intrigues, and some very disparaging comments on his proceedings in this matter have been published in Bulgarian and Turkish newspapers.

Similar accusations and reports are also made by the Greeks against the Bulgars and their clergy, which stimulate the hostility that unhappily exists between the two races and cause serious disquietude to the population.

I beg leave to avail myself of this opportunity to inclose, for your information, extracts from two Reports of Mr. Vice-Consul Capety on the state of brigandage in the Sandjak of Serres, and to add that the southern districts of Macedonia are quiet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 199.

Information relative to Raid perpetrated by Albanians of Débra on Papradishta, a Bulgarian Village in District of Kiuprulu.

LA semaine passée 100 Albanais armés se sont introduits dans le village Bulgare Papradishta, situé dans le Caza de Kiuprulu, aux environs de Perlepe.

Ils incendièrent six maisons et blessèrent deux hommes et trois femmes, et après ils enlevèrent seize bœufs et autres bétails et effets, et prirent la fuite, emmenant avec eux trois otages Chrétiens. Le Caïmacan de Kiuprulu, aussitôt ce fait est parvenu à sa connaissance, est allé avec des troupes à la poursuite des brigands, et envoya un médecin et un fonctionnaire pour assister les blessés, et faire une enquête.

Les brigands ont pris la fuite vers Debra, et le Vali de Monastir a expédié une force suffisante pour surveiller les chemins et assister à la poursuite de ces malfaiteurs.

Les pauvres villageois de Papradishta ont dénoncés aux autorités que les nommés Sinan, Feizo, Hussein, Zoko, et Idris, tous Albanais de Debra, et employés par le village Bulgare Tcherlishta, du district de Perlepe, étaient au nombre des brigands.

On procède partant à la recherche de ces prévenus.

Inclosure 3 in No. 199.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extrait.) *Serres, le* 1er *Octobre*, 1884.

J'E viens de recevoir votre dépêche relatif à une capture par la bande de Gluita de dix-huit habitants du district de Nevrocop.

Dans mes Rapports Nos. 21 et 29 de cette année j'ai eu l'occasion de relater des faits commis dans la part du Rhodope par la bande de Covatchevali.

Le fait relaté dans la correspondance du "Eastern Express" n'est malheureusement que trop vrai.

Vers la moitié d'Août quatre brigands, appartenant à une bande plus forte, entrés dans Covatchevitza, ont emmené une quinzaine des habitants. Ils demandaient une rançon de 1,200*l*.

J'attends des informations ultérieures que je ne manquerais pas de vous communiquer en son temps. Il a raison, le correspondant du "Eastern Express," en disant que le brigandage existe dans les contrées susdites; il pouvait même ajouter qu'il infeste toute la Macédoine par la facilité que les brigands ont de se retirer en Bulgarie quand ils sont serrés de près par les autorités Ottomanes et toujours pour hiverner.

Inclosure 4 in No. 199.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extrait.) *Serres, le 18 Octobre*, 1884.

AU sujet de douze captifs de Covatchevitza on m'écrit de Nevrocop que plusieurs en ont été relâchés après avoir payé une rançon de £ T. 70. Les brigands demandent une somme égale pour délivrer les autres.

Il y a dix jours la même bande a capturé à Derwent un Musulman Muhajir qui de Nevrocop se rendait à Razlog.

On ignore ce qu'il est devenu.

Des brigands entrés à Cremin avaient emmenés deux paysans.

Ces captifs étant échappés la bande envahit de nouveau le lendemain le même village, et ayant capturé deux autres paysans s'en est allée.

On ignorait encore le sort de ces captifs.

Ceci du côté de Nevrocop et de Razlog.

La bande qui depuis longtemps se trouvait dans les montagnes de Nigrita a ces jours-ci capturée un jeune homme de Saità.

Les parents du captif ont dû payer une rançon de £ T. 50.

Une nouvelle incursion des brigands dans ce sandjak vient d'avoir lieu il y a quelques jours.

Georgi Cremenli, avec une vingtaine de brigands, est venu de Bulgarie dans le district de Melenico.

No. 200.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 5.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October 26*, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a Report which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the subject of the alleged persecution of Bulgarian Protestants in the district of Stroumnitza, in the Vilayet of Salonica.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 200.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Salonica, October 26*, 1884.

I BEG leave respectfully to call your attention to the inclosed Memorandum of the Rev. J. W. Baird, an American Protestant missionary established at Monastir, on the alleged persecution of a number of Bulgarian Protestants in the district of Stroumnitza, in the Vilayet of Salonica.

As these native Protestants are charged with harbouring brigands, their case was brought before the Military Court for trial, the district of Stroumnitza being under martial law. I have, however, after some difficulty, succeeded in causing the case to be transferred to Salonica, where the accused arrived last Sunday, the 17th instant, and are to be tried by the local Military Court. Besides, Hassan Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, to whom I unofficially made an appeal in behalf of these Protestants, promised me to watch that they should have a fair trial.

But it is necessary to exercise great caution and tact in dealing with this matter, as the military authorities of Salonica are very jealous of Consular interference in their proceedings.

As to the charges brought against these unfortunate men, I feel almost certain that they are false, and, as Mr. Baird states in his Memorandum, have been invented for the purpose of intimidating them and others who may be inclined towards Protestantism.

Whether the Greek Archbishop of Stroumnitza is in any way implicated in these underhand proceedings it would be difficult to prove; but the circumstance that about the time these charges were made his Eminence had used his influence with the Ottoman authorities to have M. Anastasoff, a Bulgarian Protestant preacher, removed from Stroumnitza because he had preached to the accused shortly before they were arrested, lends some plausibility to Mr. Baird's suspicions.

Moreover, this is not the first time that his Eminence has instigated the Turkish authorities against this preacher and other Bulgarian Protestants in his district. Mr. Baird gives several instances, among others that of Tané, in reporting whose case to Her Majesty's Embassy in my despatch of the 13th October, 1881, I made a suggestion to which I beg leave to draw your attention.

With regard to the preacher, Anastasoff, I represented his case to Ghalib Pasha, who at once liberated him, and promised me that he would order the Kaïmakam of Stroumnitza to protect him against further molestation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT

Inclosure 2 in No. 200.

Memorandum by the Rev. J. W. Baird respecting the Persecution of Protestants at Stroumnitza.

ON the 27th August (8th September), 1884, Stavri Imioff, Protestant of Stroumnitza, was arrested by command of the military authorities, and on the following day his two servants, Velesli Andon and Kosta, and Spaso Kotseff, Trendo Tancff, Giorgi Miti, Traiko Rizoff, Koté Yani, Petse Gotse, and Ilio Bozhin, Protestants of the village Monospitovo, two hours from Stroumnitza, were arrested also.

At the examination held on the 8th (20th) September they were charged with meeting secretly by night with brigands. The wife of Andon and three men were brought as witnesses against them. The woman testified that she saw three of the Protestants go one evening—she could not remember when—to the room occupied by Stavri when at his farm. There were no armed men with them.

The three men named say they did visit Stavri one evening, but before the 22nd August (3rd September). Another witness, Grucheff Pandilis, swore that on the evening of the 22nd August (3rd September), about 4 o'clock Turkish, he arose to tie a loose ox, when, hearing dogs barking and men passing, he stopped behind a fence, and through it he saw the seven Protestants of the village, accompanied by eight armed men, pass by. After they passed he followed them and saw them enter Stavri's place.

He then went and called Lazo and Kotse Giorgie, who live at some distance, to come and see something, but not telling them what it was. The three stood behind a fence and watched the assembly for two hours, when they saw Stavri and servant send them off. The two other witnesses testified similarly.

There are the strongest of reasons for believing that the charges are wholly false, and are made at the instigation of the Bishop and his party to persecute Protestants, to uproot Protestantism, and to terrorize those that incline towards Protestantism.

Persecution in that place is not a new thing. Three years ago Tané, a Protestant of Stroumnitza, was imprisoned on complaint of the Bishop. When the case was brought to the knowledge of the Governor-General of Salonica the man was freed.

In June 1882 the writer of this, being in Stroumnitza, was called to the room of the Kaïmakam and insolently told that he had no business to be there, and that he must leave at once, or that he would be sent out of the region bound.

Shortly after the threat was repeated, and not till a telegram came from the Governor-General of Salonica on the subject did the Kaïmakam cease threatening. As there had not been the slightest breach of the peace, the writer always believed that the Bishop spoke through the Kaïmakam.

In February 1883 the Bishop complained to the Major in command that the Protestant preacher there, Demeter Anastasoff, was a person who might cause trouble. The Major then insisted on the preacher procuring an order from the Governor-General on leaving the place. The order was procured through the kind offices of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, J. E. Blunt, Esq., C.B., who also used his influence in the previous cases. The preacher, however, on presenting the order, was told by the Kaïmakam and his Medjliss that he must not converse with people in the shops nor go to the villages.

At the invitation of some of the Protestants of Monospitovo the preacher went, on the 26th August (7th September), 1884, and preached in the house of Spasso to an audience of about 200. On the following Wednesday the preacher was called before the Kaïmakam, the Medjliss and the Bishop being present, and examined about his preaching at Monospitovo, who invited him, &c., and was reproved for having gone there.

His "yol-teskéré" (travelling permit) was taken from him and kept a week, so that he could not go to Salonica to work for the liberation of the imprisoned Protestants. The reasoning for this was, "The Bishop has a complaint against you." On the day following the sermon the alleged seeing of brigands five days before was reported to the Bishop, who informed the Major. Why did not those that say they saw armed men on Wednesday evening arouse the village to catch them, or at least inform the police in the morning? Why wait till the Monday after the large audience before telling anybody, and then tell the *Bishop*, unless it was a made-up plan to persecute the new Protestants? Why did they disregard the strict orders of the Government to capture suspicious characters, or at least to report their whereabouts, and only remember their duty when it became evident that several villagers were favourably inclined towards Protestantism? It would be strange that all the Protestants of the village should be engaged in abetting brigands, who can hardly be supposed to have Protestant proclivities.

It may be remarked that the Bishop and his party have persecuted the Bulgarian party by securing imprisonments on false charges, and have nearly or quite suppressed it. The plan now seems to be to keep the Protestants in gaol at Stroumnitza till they ask the Bishop's pardon, kiss his hand, and return to his fold.

They have not been admitted to bail, nor has their request to be sent to Salonica for trial been granted as yet.

Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, J. E. Blunt, Esq., C.B., who is using his influence to secure justice in this case, has, however, secured from the proper authorities assurances that they will be brought for trial to Salonica.

These peaceable, innocent men, accused by false witnesses of low character, suffer, their houses and their business are neglected, in order that their more powerful enemies may triumph over them.

(Signed) J. W. BAIRD.

Salonica, October 14, 1884.

No. 201.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 5.)

Salonica, October 26, 1884.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a further despatch which I have this day addressed to Mr. Wyndham on the subject of the raid which has been recently perpetrated by a large band of Albanian marauders from Dibra on two Bulgarian villages in the district of Kiuprulu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 201.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Salonica, October 26, 1884.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of an extract from the "Salonica Gazette" relative to the raid recently perpetrated by a large band of Albanian marauders from Dibra on the Bulgarian villages of Papradishta and Oreshé, in the district of Kiuprulu.

Ghalib Pasha has informed me that one of the leaders of the band has been apprehended; and that Ahmet Eyoub Pasha, Vali of Monastir, has dispatched his Chief of Police to Dibra to personally superintend the measures that are being taken against the authors of this outrage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 201.

Extract from the "Salonica Gazette" of October 23, 1884.

(Translation.)

LAST week the following events took place in the villages of Oreshé and Papradishta, in the Kiuprulu district. A number of Albanians came to the above villages, burnt some houses and barns, killed one man and wounded three or four others, stole some sixteen head of horses and cattle, plundered a few houses, and escaped, taking with them three Christian prisoners. On receipt of the news at the chief town of the district, from which these villages are some eight or ten hours distant, a squadron of cavalry and a detachment of zaptiehs, mounted and foot, were ordered out to pursue and chastise the perpetrators of the outrage; and on its being ascertained that they had gone in the direction of Dibra, crossing the Tusugra Balkan, by way of Papradishta, Kalkandelen, and Mavra, the necessary instructions were dispatched to the Vilayet of Monastir, the Mutessarifliks of Dibra and Uscup, and to the Kaïmakamlik of Perlepé, with which places correspondence is now being exchanged. The fact that the brigands are very hard pressed is shown by their having liberated unhurt the prisoners they had carried off, and leads us to hope that they will soon be captured. The reason that such a large band of marauders should have been present at the attack on the village, and should have ventured to commit atrocities, is that great numbers of Albanians are just now leaving Albania in large bands, with the object of pursuing their various trades and business in the provinces of the Empire, and it is probable that a large band of such Albanians who had come to the Albanian frontier at Kiuprulu were instigated to commit this outrage by Bulgarians and Greeks, between whom there exists a long-standing enmity arising from religious differences, and who may have wished thus to take revenge on each other. This being so, a force of soldiers and zaptiehs has been quartered in the villages of Oreshé and Papradishta for the purpose of finding out the real truth of the matter; a "bekji" and some "kehayas" of the village of Tchernishta, who acted as guides to the marauders, have been arrested, and the presence of the troops has allayed the fears of the inhabitants and completely reassured them. We know well that badly-disposed persons are always glad to make use of an event such as this in order to speak against the peace and security of our vilayet, but we assert that any account of the affair different from what we have detailed is untrue.

No. 202.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 5.)

Therapia, October 27, 1884.

My Lord,

ON the 21st instant I received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting that a number of Albanian marauders from Dibra recently made a raid into the district of Kiuprulu, and pillaged the Bulgarian village of Papradishta, carrying away three Christians as hostages, sixteen head of cattle and other plunder, besides committing other atrocities. Mr. Blunt added that the authorities of Monastir and Salonica had sent troops in pursuit, but that it was to be feared that their energetic action might be hampered by the present policy of the Porte to avoid any serious collision with their Albanian subjects.

On the receipt of this telegram, I called the attention of the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs to the circumstance reported by Mr. Blunt, and pointed out to his Excellency that, for obvious reasons, it was important that the Sublime Porte should not allow such a serious occurrence to pass unnoticed.

His Excellency, after carefully taking note of the particulars I gave him, stated that the Sublime Porte would not fail to take the matter into earnest consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 203.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, November* 17.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 16 *Novembre*, 1884.

REÇU télégramme.

Le Gouvernement Impérial n'a jamais cessé de s'occuper avec la plus grande sollicitude du bien-être de toutes les populations de l'Empire, et ce n'est certes pas au moment où il espère voir ses efforts produire les meilleurs résultats qu'il pouvait s'attendre aux débats qui viennent d'avoir lieu au Parlement.

Étant donné les intentions et les dispositions qui animent la Sublime Porte, il est de l'intérêt général de laisser à elle-même le soin de donner cours à sa généreuse initiative.

Je prie votre Excellence de voir Lord Granville et de lui faire bien comprendre la situation que je viens de décrire, et qui ne comporte ni de nouvelles discussions publiques, ni des instructions à donner à l'Ambassadeur qui sera nommé à Constantinople.

No. 204.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville—(*Received November* 19.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 27, 1884.

IN answer to the Foreign Office despatch of the 15th instant, which reached me yesterday morning, I have the honour to report that, on the whole, I am able to agree with some parts of the description of the state of brigandage in Macedonia, contained in the letter inclosed therein which appeared in the "St. James' Gazette" of the 9th instant. There are, however, some sweeping assertions in it of an exaggerated type, particularly those in reference to the relations existing between the Civil and Military Governors of Salonica, and the demeanour of the military officers towards the population.

The continuance of martial law in the vilayets of Salonica, Cossova, and Janina is no doubt the cause of a certain amount of jealousy and friction between the civil and military authorities, which, however, in the Vilayet of Salonica, has been much less perceptible since Ghalib Pasha has taken charge of its administration.

As regards the treatment of the population by the military, it is very long since I have heard of any cases at Salonica, "as black and revolting as any sensation monger could desire." Nor have any authenticated cases of gross misconduct on the part of the soldiery in the vilayet come within my knowledge.

Rumours of certain acts of injustice committed by the court-martial here and at Pristina have been from time to time in circulation, some of which, especially those connected with the condemnation of numerous well-to-do Christians of the Vilayet of Cossova, have been reported by me to Her Majesty's Government. From what I hear and observe, there is strong reason to believe that several Turks, as well as Christians, have been condemned to terms of imprisonment or exile on false evidence adduced by their respective co-religionists, and hence the sooner martial law, as administered at present in these vilayets, is abolished, the better will it be for the condition of the country and the credit of the Ottoman Government.

With reference to the state of brigandage in this province, it is, undoubtedly, by no means as bad as it was two years ago, and the evil, as I have informed your Lordship in previous Reports, is now chiefly confined to the Bulgarian centres, in districts adjoining the Bulgarian and East Roumelian borders, and to those in the vicinity of the Dibra Albanians, whose bad instincts display themselves freely in occasional outbreaks of violence and depravity. The irresolute policy pursued by the Porte in its dealings with these turbulent people leads them to believe that they can do anything with impunity, and the consequence is the peaceable inhabitants—the Christians in particular—frequently become victims of lawless violence and oppression.

This state of affairs is still further aggravated by the presence of Roman Catholic and Protestant missionaries in the country, and more especially by the action of the Greek, Slav, and Roumanian propaganda, which, planting themselves in Macedonia, make it a hotbed of their rival intrigues

Greeks have been set up against Bulgarians, Vlachs against Greeks, and Albanians against Turks and Bulgarians, all struggling to assert and advance their respective national interests.

These are very dangerous elements of trouble in the situation in Macedonia; they excite the minds of the people, distract and weaken the Administration, and may at any moment lead to serious disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 205.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 24.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November* 10, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a further despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Wyndham on the subject of the raid which was recently perpetrated on some Bulgarian villages in the district of Kiuprulu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Salonica, November* 10, 1884.

THE authorities have succeeded in apprehending five of the Albanians who were concerned in the recent raid on some Bulgarian villages in the district of Kiuprulu.

Ghalib Pasha has informed me that he will cause these men to be brought to Salonica for trial.

It appears that most of the other Albanians who were implicated in this outrage have succeeded in taking refuge in Dibra, where I very much doubt if the military authorities will venture to take any very active measures for their arrest.

Some troops have been dispatched to the district of Kiuprulu to protect the inhabitants from further molestation; and I have been given to understand that Ghalib Pasha, with a view to afford some relief to the villagers who have suffered from the late occurrences, has suggested to the Porte that they should be granted the remission of their taxes for one year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 206.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 24.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November* 10, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the state of public security in Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 206.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Salonica, November* 10, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a Report, with one inclosure, which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, on the bad state of public security in Epirus.

The recent appointment of Ahmet Eyoub Pasha as Governor-General of the Vilayet of Janina will, I hope, conduce to some improvement in the state of affairs in that important province.

He displayed considerable energy in dealing with the brigand class in the Vilayet of Monastir, and if he devotes the same attention and zeal to the construction of new roads in Epirus as he has done in Monastir, there is no doubt he will succeed in coping more effectually than his predecessors with this crying evil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 206.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Prevesa, October* 31, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to accounts received from various sources, public security in the interior of this province appears to be at present very unsatisfactory. The districts of Janina, Conitza, and Zagori are infested by brigands, as shown in the inclosed Table, and the town of Janina by thieves.

With respect to Janina, Mr. Kypriotis reports as follows:—

"The state of the town of Janina is very bad, owing to the robberies that are committed every night by, up to this, unknown thieves; and the firing off of guns are, during the night, heard in different parts of the town."

That the thieves at Janina are getting bolder every day is proved by the fact that one day the Chief of the Gendarmerie found a note on his table ordering him to send some 400 or 500 liras to a certain place.

Such a thing has never, I believe, occurred in Janina before.

This being the state of affairs, one would naturally wish to know what steps the authorities are taking in the matter, and in this respect Mr. Kypriotis reports as follows:—

"In consequence of the existing bands of brigands, a great many of the inhabitants of the various villages are brought here and imprisoned, and it is said that those who are intrusted with the pursuit of brigands behave very badly towards the inhabitants."

So that the rural population appears to suffer almost as much from their protectors as from the brigands themselves.

I am very glad, however, to be able to state that the condition of Margariti has greatly improved since the energetic steps that have a short time back been taken by the authorities against the Liaps, who had somehow begun to defy the authority of the Government, and ended in their refusal to pay taxes; and I am inclined to believe that had it not been for this refusal on their part the Liaps would, for a long time to come, have been allowed as heretofore to do everything they chose: be that as it may, the result has proved most satisfactory, and it is much to be regretted that the same amount of energy is not displayed by the officials in other parts of the province, where it is most needed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 206.

Acts of Brigandage reported to have been committed in the Districts of Janina, Conitza, and Zagori, between the 9th February and the 11th September, 1884.

Date.		Place where the Act was committed.	No. of Brigands.	Name of Brigand Chief.	Remarks.
Feb.	9	Conitza, Starista	..	Kelipouri	Kelipouri and three of his band were captured alive, but shot down on the way to Janina, as it appears they attempted to escape.
Apr.	21	,, neighbourhood of ..	29	Lazaro	Attacked by troops. One brigand killed and three captured. Troops lost one sergeant killed and one private wounded.
	22	Janina, Monastery Licostani .	9	Not known	Killed the nun and plundered the monastery.
	22	,, Pothgoriani ..	17	,, ...	Seen roaming about the neighbourhood.
June	1	Between Conitza and Caravoparé	10	Lazaro	Carried off a Christian.
July	10	Paramithia, monastery ..	15	Ambrazi Corvelessi ..	Plundered the monastery to the value of 400 liras, besides 50 liras the property of the monk.
Aug.	22	Zagori, Monothenthron ..	15	Apostoli and Etrali ..	Carried off two women; the younger was subsequently ransomed for 700 liras, but the elder was killed because 400 liras were not paid.
	28	,, Frangathi.. ..	14	Evangeli Tukos, Sarakatzano and Lazo	Captured Dr. Menglithi, for whose release they demand 2,000 liras.
Sept.	1	,, ,, ...	..	Not known	Murdered a shepherd.
	1	Between Zagori and Janina..	8	,, ...	Plundered several travellers.
	8	Janina, Baltuma	13	Lazaro	Carried off a Christian and two Turks. The former paid 100 napoleons and was set free, but the two latter are kept prisoners.
	11	Zagori, Ekamnelio ..	8	Not known	Plundered six natives of Lalista.

N.B.—Besides the above, a band of twenty brigands left Trikala* for Epirus, according to private information received at Janina.

* Tricalla is in Greek territory.—J. E. B.

No. 207.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 18, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 29th ultimo, in which your Lordship was good enough to furnish me with a copy of a letter addressed by Baron Reuter to Mr. Currie concerning the telegrams forwarded by his agent at Sophia on the subject of brigandage in Macedonia.

As Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica called attention to these telegrams in his despatch to this Embassy of the 27th September, I have thought it advisable to transmit to him a copy of Baron Reuter's letter for his confidential information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 208.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Wyndham.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 8.)

Sir, *Salonica, November* 20, 1884.

WITH reference to Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney's Report on the state of insecurity in Epirus, a copy of which I forwarded to you in my despatch of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report the following further information on the subject, which I have received from a trustworthy source:—

The district of Zagora, which contains forty-four villages, all inhabited b Christians, appears to have been constantly ravaged by brigands during the last six years. Its inhabitants are nearly all well-to-do traders, who do business in Turkey, Greece, Roumania, and Russia. Owing, however, to the state of insecurity which prevails in the country, many of them have emigrated; and, if the Porte neglects to take energetic measures against the brigands, the district will soon be depopulated.

My informant assures me that "within the last four years about 1,200 families have emigrated, and others are still going!"

I have called Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney's notice to the above statement, and shall not fail to forward to you his Report on the subject.

In the meantime, I beg leave to submit to you the following particulars of the most recent outrages perpetrated by brigands in the above-named district.

Towards the end of August two women were carried off from the village of Monodendrow; one of them, the wife of Ghiorghi Pandasiou, was 60 years of age; the other is a young woman, her daughter-in-law. After a detention of nearly two months £ T. 800, and about £ T. 200 worth of silver and gold articles, were given as ransom. Upon this the young woman was released, but the elder was murdered.

The band of brigands who committed this outrage was composed of six men, all Christians.

Most fortunately, five of them, who had escaped to Arta, in Greece, have been apprehended by the Greek authorities, and £ T. 600 were found on them and recovered. The young woman and her husband have been telegraphed for in order to identify the miscreants.

Captain Apostolaki, who has been roaming about in the district of Zagora for the last four years as the head of a band composed of twenty brigands, captured, about the 27th August last, a certain Janaki Minglidi, a doctor in the township of Lescovatz, and released him about two weeks ago on the payment of £ T. 600 ransom.

This same Janaki was captured about three years ago, and had paid £ T. 450 ransom. The man is poor, and most of the ransom money was advanced by his father-in-law, M. Volodimos.

The same band captured some six weeks ago two Turks, one of whom was released, as he is poor; the other is still in captivity.

I should add that my informant also speaks in terms of praise of the efforts which are made by the Greek authorities to maintain order on the Greco-Turkish frontiers, and hopes that Ahmet Eyoub Pasha, the new Vali of Janina, will energetically co-operate with them in furtherance of that object.

The action of the Greek Government has been recently noticed by the Turkish newspapers. I inclose a paragraph from the "Osmanli" on the subject, as reproduced in the "Oriental Advertiser."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 208.

Extract from the "Oriental Advertiser," Constantinople, November 13, 1884.

GRÈCE ET TURQUIE.—"L'Osmanli" de ce matin constate avec satisfaction que les autorités Hellènes s'empressent de contribuer à la répression du brigandage. Le journal officiel du Vilayet de Janina annonce que le Gouvernement Hellénique a chargé un capitaine, ayant sous ses ordres un détachement de troupes, de poursuivre les brigands qui oseraient troubler la sécurité de la frontière. Le Commandant Militaire Ottoman a, de son côté, donné des ordres à l'officier stationné à Medzova de se mettre en communication avec l'officier Hellène, afin de poursuivre le but commun de la répression du brigandage. Ce dernier s'est empressé de répondre amicalement à l'ouverture qui lui a été faite par l'autorité militaire Ottomane, et de lui offrir son bienveillant concours. Le journal officiel du Vilayet de Janina exprime toute sa satisfaction de cette attitude amicale de la Grèce, qui contribuera sans doute au succès des mesures prises par les autorités Ottomanes, en vue de l'extirpation du brigandage. La Grèce prouve donc par des actes que son rapprochement avec la Turquie est sérieux et sincère, qu'elle tient à donner des preuves matérielles de son intention de consolider ses relations amicales avec l'Empire Ottoman, et de ne pas tolérer un état de choses qui pourrait les troubler dans les districts limitrophes.

No. 209.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received December 8.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November* 24, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 29th ultimo and of the 7th instant relative to the conflicting statements made regarding brigandage in Macedonia. I hasten to report to your Lordship that the outrages referred to in the telegram from Sophia of the 26th, and inclosed in Baron Reuter's letter to Mr. Currie of the 27th October, occurred on or about the 8th of the same month.

The above telegram does not mention the occurrences reported in that of the 5th September from the same source, and therefore cannot be considered as a confirmation of what had not occurred on or previous to that date, that is to say, more than a month before, as I had the honour to point out to your Lordship in my despatch of the 27th September.

No doubt the confirmation contained in Reuter's telegram of the 26th of October is that of events which took place on the 8th, and were reported by me in my despatch of the 23rd of the same month.

I maintain the accuracy of the information which I furnished in my Report of the 27th September, and beg leave to add that I have every confidence in my informants, most of whom have had long experience of the country, and are in a position enabling them to secure trustworthy information.

I also beg leave respectfully to assure your Lordship that my best efforts have always been directed towards furnishing Her Majesty's Government with an impartial and accurate description of the state of affairs in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 210.

Earl Granville to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 18, 1884.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for any observations which you may have to offer thereon, a copy of a telegram addressed to Mr. Gladstone by M. Guesshoff, Acting President of the Macedonian Benevolent Society, relative to the atrocities alleged to have been recently committed.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 211.

M. Guesshoff to Mr. Gladstone.—(Received December .)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, December* 9, 1884, 3·20 P.M.

TWELVE HUNDRED Macedonian Bulgarians assembled in a meeting at Sophia, and 2,200 others, writing from Rustchuk, Varna, Kustendje, and Doupnitza, have applied to the Macedonian Benevolent Society, entreating it to convey you their testimony to the unbearable evils now weighing on their unfortunate country. Having forsaken Macedonia on account of these evils, they are in a position to know the real state of affairs in that country, and they affirm that the accounts respecting the latest atrocities are correct, and that never has Macedonia suffered so much as now. In the absence of any other channel for transmitting their grievances, they appeal through the Macedonian Society to the humanity of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, and implore them to take the steps they think fit for the prompt and efficacious relief of Macedonia's deplorable condition.

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* No. 211.